

California GARDEN

February-
March, 1963
Vol. 54, No. 1

35 cents



RETICULATA
CAMELLIAS

Howard Asper

*Laurel Wreaths
for the Marts of Trade*

San Diego Garden Club Center

FLORAL BUILDING BALBOA PARK

Under the sponsorship of
The Park and Recreation Dept.,
City of San Diego

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Third Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938
4444 Arista Dr., S.D. 3

FLOWER ARRANGERS' GUILD

First Thursday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Chairman: Mrs. Peg White 459-3551
5951 Germaine Lane, La Jolla

Affiliate Members 1963

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA SOCIETY
Third Friday, Homes of Members, 10 a.m.
President: Mrs. Clayton Lee 296-4845
3911 St. James Pl., S.D. 3
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Anuta Lynch 298-1400
202 Lewis, S.D. 3

ASTRO GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Floral Bldg., 8 p.m.
President: Arnold W. Carroll 276-1579
1911 Erie St., S.D.
Rep. Dir.: J. E. Henderson 274-1754
3503 Yosemite, S.D. 9

CIVIC CENTER GARDEN CLUB
Third Saturday, Floral Building, 10 a.m.
President &
Rep. Dir.: James Saraceno 274-2628
3366 Lloyd St., S.D. 17

CLASS OF SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY
Fourth Sunday, Floral Bldg., 1 p.m.
Rep.: Crandall Condra 295-4920
1212 Upas, S.D. 3

CONVAIR GARDEN CLUB
Second Wed., Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
President: Henry Boyd 264-1283
6581 Broadway, S.D. 14
Rep. Dir.: Eugene Zimmerman 277-3383
1942 Abbe, S.D. 11

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO
Fourth Monday, Floral Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: A. R. Blackburn 454-2507
1640 Torrey Pines Rd., La Jolla
Rep. Dir.: Roy C. Lawton 422-1775
719 First Ave., Chula Vista

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB
Third Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
President: Andrew Kerr 582-2499
P.O. Box 362, Lemon Grove
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Hilkwitz 296-2282
1756 Mission Cliffs Dr., S.D. 16

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, Silver Gate Savings &
Loan Bldg., Ocean Beach, 10:00 a.m.
Vice-Pres. and Rep. Dir.:
Mrs. Karl Leonhard 222-2702
3014 Evergreen St., S.D. 6

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY
First Saturday, Floral Building, 2 p.m.
President: Harry B. Caulk 295-8540
3326 Union St., S.D.
Rep. Dir.: Archie Burgess 474-1659
6269 Chadwick, S.D. 14

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY
Second Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Althea Hebert 466-3589
8845 Country Club Pl., Spring Valley
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Lester Crowder 295-5871
3130 Second St., S.D. 3

S. D. CHAPTER CALIF. ASS'N NURSERYMEN
Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m.
President: Frank Antonicelli 295-2808
1525 Fort Stockton, S.D. 3
Rep. Dir.: Bill Giaccioli 582-2929
6362 El Cajon Blvd., S.D. 15

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY
Fourth Tuesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Pres. & Rep. Dir.:
Mrs. R. M. Middleton 296-3246
3944 Centre St., S.D. 3

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY
First Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: J. E. Henderson 274-1754
3503 Yosemite, S.D. 9
Rep. Dir.: Elizabeth A. Newkirk
1654 La Mancha Dr., S.D. 9 274-2042

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY
Second Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
President: Mrs. Walter Bunker 281-5027
4721 Bancroft, S.D.
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Mary Bray Watson
2537 Commonwealth, S.D. 4 284-2669

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY
Third Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
President: Edwin Gould 454-1519
7501 Olivetas Ave., La Jolla
Rep. Dir.: Mrs. Joseph J. Kennally
2260 Catalina, S.D. 7 223-6183

Other Garden Clubs

AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY
San Diego Branch
Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall, University
& Pershing, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Dr. Hazel McBride 295-1127
2828 Dove St., S.D. 1

San Miguel Branch
First Wednesday, Youth Center, Lemon
Grove, 8 p.m.
President: Mrs. Jack Brook 466-0162
7151 Central Ave., Lemon Grove

CABRILLO-MISSION GARDEN CLUB
Third Thurs., United Church, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Chas. Domler 283-3642
5158 Hastings Rd., S.D. 16

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB
First Friday, VFW Hall, Carlsbad,
1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Doris Simpson 729-1515
1075 Chinquapin Ave., Carlsbad

CHULA VISTA FUCHSIA CLUB
Second Tuesday, Norman Park Recreation
Center, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. William Hook 422-6322
133 I, Chula Vista

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Norman Park Recreation
Center, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. W. R. Williams 422-7627
887 Country Club Dr., Chula Vista

CLAIREMONT GARDEN CLUB
Third Tuesday, Clairemont Community
Center, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Charles Johnson 278-1043
4804 Mount Durban, S.D.

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION
No regular meeting date, Christ Church
Parish Hall
Pres.: Capt. Frank T. Sloat 435-3325
1111 Adella, Coronado

CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB
Third Monday, Barbour Hall, University
& Pershing, 8 p.m.
President: Charles Williams 284-2317
4240 46th, S.D. 15

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO
Fourth Thursday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113
Adella Lane, 9:30 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. H. M. Miller 435-1324
521 Country Club Lane, Coronado

DELCADIA GARDEN CLUB
First Wednesday, Encinitas Union
Elementary School, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Edwin C. Pickett 753-3890
1068 Devonshire, Encinitas

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)
Second Tues., Members Homes, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Florence Hart 742-3522
Adams Dr., Pauma Valley

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB
Third Fri., Women's Club House, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Charles Avery 745-2387
612 E. Eighth, Escondido

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB
Last Thurs., Fallbrook Woman's Club-
house, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Karl G. Houtz 728-2932
2150 E. Mission Rd., Fallbrook

GROSSMONT CENTER GARDEN CLUB
Second Mon., Grossmont Center, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Charles Trapp 465-4326
6323 Lake Apopka Place, S.D. 19

IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Third Tues., So. Bay Com. Center, 1 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Miles Bowler 424-9486
212 Daisy, Imperial Beach

LAKESIDE GARDEN CLUB
Third Monday, Lakeside Farm School,
7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Cecil Carender 448-1753
P.O. Box 608, Lakeside

LA MESA WOMAN'S CLUB
(GARDEN SECTION)
Third Thursday, La Mesa Woman's Club,
1:45 p.m.

Pres.: Mrs. J. Holland Noel 463-6795
8415 Kappa St., La Mesa
LEMON GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB
(GARDEN SECTION)

First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's
Club House, 1 p.m.
Chairman: Mrs. O. R. Patterson
8396 Golden, Lemon Grove 466-5242

NATIONAL CITY GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, National City
Community Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
President: Henry Dell 284-7346
4912 Mansfield, S. D. 16

O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday, S. Oceanside
School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. R. D. Chaney, Sr. 722-5748
1411 Hunsaker St., Oceanside

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Home Federal
Friendship Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Ernest Ambort 276-1595
4440 Ingulf St., S.D. 10

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Pres.: Mrs. Raymond Stockes 748-2243
14725 Espola Road, Poway

RANCHO SANTA FE GARDEN CLUB
Second Wednesday
Pres.: Mrs. Charles Chapin 756-1143
Box 734, Rancho Santa Fe

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB
Fourth Tues., Homes of Members, 1 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Robert R. Tompkins
6347 Coral Lake Ave., S.D. 19 465-5959

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB
Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings
Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m.
President: Mrs. Waldo Vogt 755-4772
773 Barbara Ave., Solana Beach

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB
Second Monday, Ramona Women's
Club House, 5th and Main, 10 a.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Nelson R. Brown 789-1034
510 Fifth, Ramona

SPRINGHOUSE GARDEN CLUB
Third Thursday, Porter Hall, La Mesa
7:30 p.m.
President: Mr. R. M. Frodahl 469-1933
3852 Avocado, La Mesa

VISTA GARDEN CLUB
First Fri., Vista Rec. Center, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Frank Gillette 724-2448
1233 Cypress, Vista
VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB
Second Tuesday, Linda Vista
Recreation Center, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Tom Stalcup 278-0668
3857 Antiem, S.D. 11

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

FEBRUARY - MARCH, 1963

VOL. 54, NO. 1



The San Diego Floral Association

San Diego's Oldest
and Largest Garden Club

FOUNDED 1907 — INCORPORATED 1910

OFFICERS

President:

MRS. EUGENE COOPER

Vice President:

MRS. EMMETT FOWLER

Recording Secretary:

MRS. GEORGE A. KIEWIT

Corresponding Secretary:

MISS HINDA ROSE

Treasurer:

MRS. RALPH ROSENBERG

DIRECTORS

1960-63

MRS. WILLIAM MCHUGH

MRS. WILLIAM E. BETTS, JR.

1961-64

MRS. B. B. ANTHONY

MISS PAULINE des GRANGES

1962-65

MAJ. EDWARD LITTLE

MRS. A. G. WENZEL

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

ANNIE ROBINSON
(MRS. C. P. TEDFORD)

ROLAND HOYT

ETHEL BAILEY HIGGINS

CHAUNCEY I. JERABEK

ALICE M. CLARK

ALICE M. GREER

PUBLISHERS SINCE 1909

of

CALIFORNIA GARDEN MAGAZINE

Front Cover—Photograph of *Camellia reticulata*, Noble Pearl, is not correct as to color, which is officially described as Oriental red. The size is exact but does not convey the three-inch depth formed by the convolutions of the swirling scalloped petals of the astonishing bloom.

At the San Diego Camellia Show on February 2, in Balboa Park, Mrs. Clive Pillsbury won first prize in the amateur division for a flower of Noble Pearl.

Back Cover—Nature's Antennae. Scene in canyon, showing *Dracaena Palms* on the left and Guadalupe Fan Palms on the right. Photograph from the Historical Collection of the Union Title Insurance Co.

CONTENTS

Laurel Wreaths for the Marts of Trade	8
Camellia Reticulata, The Temple Flower, <i>by Howard Asper</i>	11
Digging up the WHY beneath the WHAT, <i>by Frank Quintana</i>	13
Espaliers, <i>by Conrad Fauntleroy Goldman</i>	15
A Most Rewarding Tree-Shrub, Calliandra, <i>by C. I. Jerabek</i>	12
Ground Covers (part two) On the Level, <i>by Aniela Esswein</i>	24

DEPARTMENTS

Advertiser's Index	30	Roses	22
Arrangement Classes	6	Commentary	5
Book Tours	28	Editorial	4
Calendar of Care	20	Flower Arrangers' Guild	7
Begonias	25	Garden Clubs	2
Camellias	20	Hoyt Recommends Sophora	21
Dahlias	26	Nature's Nook, Camellias	29
Fuchsias	24	Events	19
Garden Chores	20	50 Years Ago, 1913	30
Orchids	23		

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Published Bi-Monthly by the SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Floral Association Building, Balboa Park, San Diego 1, California

Office Manager—Rosalie F. Garcia

Office Hours: M-W-F, 10-3 Phone 232-5762

All rights reserved.

Advertising rates on request.

Co-Chairmen Jean Kenneally Vera Thacher	Photography - - - - Vi Morgenroth
Guest-Editor - - - ALICE M. CLARK	CONTRIBUTING STAFF
Assistant editor - - - Alice M. Greer	Dorothy S. Behrends Chauncy I. Jerabek
Horticultural advisor - - - Roland Hoyt	Helen D. Carswell Jane Minshall
Advertising - - - Joan Betts, Alice Clark	Alice M. Greer Frank Quintana
Elizabeth Little	Alice W. Heyneman Ed F. Roach
	Roland S. Hoyt David R. Roberts

Subscriptions to California Garden, \$2.00 per year; foreign countries and Canada, \$3.00. See above address. Price of subscription is included in SDFA dues. Second class postage paid at San Diego, California. California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchants' Association.

EDITORIAL

**FLOWERS,
TREES, and SHRUBS**
all need

MILORGANITE

the natural,
organic fertilizer

..... for healthy,
luxuriant growth.

Get a bag today!

At Your Local Nursery

MILORGANITE

Distributed Only by

BUTLER'S MILL INC.

2636 Imperial Ave.

San Diego 2, Calif.

**LOTTIE L. CRAWFORD
VICTOR R. LUNDY**

Authorized
MORTGAGE LOAN BROKERS
for the

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE OF AMERICA
FARMERS NEW WORLD LIFE INS. CO.

232-3016

1367 Sixth Ave.

CULLIGAN

Soft Water

KEN WALKER
Serving La Jolla - Pacific Beach
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL
SALES • SERVICE
AUTOMATIC SOFTENERS
FILTERS

488-8373

970 TURQUOISE • PACIFIC BEACH

Before continuing further please turn to page 30 for quotations from our first editor . . . pause for reading . . . Surely no New Yorker magazine ever had a writer with a finer combination of sagacity and wit. Now you will understand how presumptuous it seems to try to put words together for the same pages that super-columnist, A. D. Robinson, began.

Fifty-four years ago Alfred D. Robinson planted a tender seedling, CALIFORNIA GARDEN, for the express enjoyment and enlightenment of the members of the San Diego Floral Association. He nurtured this plant monthly, with the waters of garden wisdom, of which he had a great font. His humor lightened the soil like humus in clay. The young tree thrived mightily. Members of households that viewed it, almost fought to be the first to turn its leaves.

For years, the man who planted the sapling continued to prune and feed it, with occasional assistance from others of the SDFA. When he finally passed from the scene the job was taken over by other plantmen, among them the late Alfred Hottes, whose name is synonymous with garden lore, and Roland Hoyt, who is still our horticultural mentor.

In the days of the depression, a belt-tightening time, the magazine was issued four times a year. During World War II it managed only two appearances. After that it leveled off to a steady four-season production.

In the meantime changes were taking place in the Floral family. Groups interested in one special plant formed their own organizations and put on their own fine shows. To take care of the expenses of CG, which formerly had been covered by two big shows a year, the SDFA originated Home Tours. These were carried on until the idea was taken over by worthy charitable foundations. That left only the Flower Arrangement shows for which the Floral had always maintained a splendid reputation. It was from the proceeds of one such show that they were able to develop the outdoor garden behind the Floral building. In 1960, this talented group of floral designers established independent status as the Flower Arrangers' Guild of San Diego. In March they will produce their first show—something to look forward to.

Now the SDFA features the Christmas Lights Tour and special lectures to help support this magazine. All it really needs is 10,000 subscriptions. Let's have a BIG SELL!

One way and another, CALIFORNIA GARDEN carried on until it celebrated its Fiftieth Year by flowering out in a colored cover and many extra pages. That was also a year of crisis, as a new editor was needed for this oldest garden magazine in the country.

Then, almost as though the man who had founded CG had directed him, came George La Pointe. He was not a horticulturist but he had a love of plants, a quick retentive mind, a willing heart and an understanding vision that told him what this magazine might become. Just for the fun of seeing it grow, he took hold and fed it with a knowing hand, until it blossomed out six times a year and made the newsstands.

Meanwhile the city of San Diego was expanding in every direction. It was full of strangers who puzzled over garden methods in this sunny dry land, until they found help in the pages of CALIFORNIA GARDEN. After all, that was exactly why it had been started!

After three years of diligent digging, cultivating, pruning, feeding and watering Grower-Editor George felt the thriving CALIFORNIA GARDEN was well on its way and could be returned with safety to the family care of SDFA. So, just for this number, it is in the hands of an "old-timer," who helped to rear it in the past and who hopes the Lord will send rain where she has failed to soak the earth enough to make this a thrifty "leafing-out." She, and others who read these pages, want to express their deepest gratitude to George La Pointe for developing more garden beauty and knowledge than they had ever envisioned for this long-cherished magazine. At its next appearance there will be another experienced hand to turn the soil and prepare the harvest for CALIFORNIA GARDEN.

Like singers, who are forever making "farewell tours," your guest-editor wishes she were young again, that she might see the day when all the groups who were expansions from the SDFA of early days, would unite again in a Garden Center, and that CALIFORNIA GARDEN might be the voice to spread the hopes and aims of that center. That's her dream, but aren't editors always dreaming of a bigger and better future?

Alice M. Clark

Commentary

on the Garden Center:

Roland Hoyt Thinks—

In this developing discussion, it would appear time for someone to speak up for the Floral Association. The writer made an attempt in the last issue of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN, to find mention of the sponsoring body pretty well edited out and only portions used that suited the editor's purpose. This attempt may not be acceptable either and, if not . . . will be sent as an open letter to the membership and such others as should be interested.

The term "landlord" has been used rather freely and from implication one wonders why the more up-to-date and definitive adjective "criminal" was overlooked. But one must understand. This is a time in history when the word "landlord" is one of reproach over the world for anyone who has grown old without benefit of relief or who has conserved something of the passing dollar for posterity.

The Floral Association actually is not a landlord. The term exists only in the intent and pen of its monitors. It owns nothing but the shoes it stands in and the barrel that obscures the rest. The magazine and other past projects, all done for the entire gardening group, has kept it pretty well stripped . . . even with the present affiliate participation. Everything that has been put into this gardening plant is for all, and when the matter of pay for the investment is brought up, it seems rather meaningless . . . something trumped up for sound. I, for one, do not know how or for what reason it should be done, so that the very idea simmers down to a kind of propaganda. The building and all that goes with it is here for all to use and doubtless, when the affiliates are ready to take title, either as pure, passing fancy or from the standpoint of maturity and stature . . . the will and ability to take on responsibility . . . they will be welcomed.

It might be well to go back to see how this "landlord" arrangement happened and what it is. The occupation of this building by the gardening community goes back into the dim past,

when the Floral Association took over a barren, barnlike and empty building of the 1915-1916 exposition to refurbish and equip for use. Let's return only to about 1946 when the Navy turned the park back to the city and civic groups began looking at their old quarters. The writer sat on the park commission at that time and knows of the problems, discussions and decisions regarding the return of organizations to former seats of activity in the park. In particular, as related to this building, there appeared justification for the Floral Association to head up the developing group of clubs in the horticultural field . . . this, in carrying the load over and above that of the park department. Moreover, it seemed right that the others should help, as evidenced by the, surely minimal contribution of \$25.00 per year. It is pointed out here and must be understandable, that if there is any balance left, it goes into the magazine, the basic project which is for all . . . in fact for the city and much of sub-tropical regions. The magazine is becoming a considerable burden for the Floral Association to carry alone and it must not be allowed to fail in view of the value to an expanded garden center.

This is as good a time as may be found to mention what has been casually discussed by some Floral members from time to time . . . the inclusion of the affiliates within an overall organization, now brought up publicly. I personally believe the time may be here to do something about it and this is my suggestion. When the Rose or any other of the stronger affiliate societies feels it would like to take a first step toward a more formalized garden center and join on a like basis with the Floral Association in management (and ownership?) of the present facilities . . . it do so, say one each year . . . this in order that integration be more thoroughly effected and adjustments made more simply. The thought is that each would accept responsibility as well as benefits . . . if any. That obligation would include per capita subscription support of CALIFORNIA GARDEN as well as management of facilities. Any other major expense that might run over the affiliate donation could be shared on a pro-rata membership basis. This should not work too much hardship on the entering club and as a second and third came in, it would become easier for all. Nothing is forced; no one is pushed: a natural sequence is set that lays a more sound and enduring foundation for the fu-

at ART ENTERPRISES . . .

New Series of
Classes in—

FLORAL ARRANGEMENT TECHNIQUE

FOR TEN WEEKS—
beginning March 4
Every Wednesday, 10 a.m.

Springtime Ideas In
ARTS and CRAFTS
Gifts and Decorations

Call 295-5837

ART ENTERPRISES by Pharis

1578 West Lewis
Mission Hills



**Why
Miss
Out?**

*Dottie Walter's
Fabulous
Hospitality
Hostess Staff*

*personally welcomes 1000
new families to San Diego
County each month! Call*

234-8434

FOR
**LANDSCAPE
CONTRACTS**
AND
GARDEN MAINTENANCE
SEE

Foster Parrent

**Nursery, 1653 Grand Ave.
San Diego 9**

273-7100

At Suburban Savings: YOUR INTEREST ADDS UP FASTER



Suburban Savings

and Loan Association

MAIN OFFICE: 1001 Garnet Street, Pacific Beach — 488-1011

BRANCH OFFICE: 3949 Clairemont Drive, Clairemont—273-4520



ARAGRO PRODUCTS For Your Garden

ARAGRO 10-5-5 is a liquid plant food blended with Organic Fish Concentrate to give a scientifically balanced fertilizer. The Organic Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potash are immediately available to promote vigorous plant growth. ARAGRO has the mild acidity of Organic Fish Concentrate and is an ideal plant food for use on lawns, trees and shrubs, vegetables and flowers. It is both Root feeding and Leaf feeding.

ARAGRO 4-10-8 is specially formulated for the production of flowers and fruit. It is a liquid plant food prepared by blending a highly acidic organic liquid fertilizer with deodorized Organic Fish Concentrate. After plants are grown with ARAGRO (10-5-5), ARAGRO 4-10-8 promotes the growth of numerous large flowers with strong stems, large fruit and firm fruiting vegetables.

Available at your Nursery — Ask for it

ARA CHEM, INC.
SAN DIEGO 5, CALIF.



ture. Intangibles such as generosity, good will and courtesy can be more important to the ultimate success of the movement than a building.

It has been suggested that an organizational group call for two members from each club. It is common knowledge that large committees get less done than small . . . so, going back to above suggestion, a gradual take-over and amalgamation might be the sounder approach. Instead of a massive and immediate effort that might hurry some not yet ready and antagonize others, a moderate course of mitigation is the more intelligent. Tissue changes in human relations can be as sensitive as those we know in plant life.

As the affiliates came in, each would take a voting seat on the existing board, at the same time displacing a Floral Association member until only one of the latter would be left. In the end the board size would reflect the number of clubs and elect its own officers. We would then be on our way to a real, effective and functioning garden center in a climate of respect and consideration. The existing plant would automatically be taken over by the growing organization clear of any "pay" as such and so far as the Floral Association was concerned. Unhappily, the first joiners might have the "landlord" look to face and live down.

This is one man's thinking and I sign my name in order that all may know.

Roland Hoyt

Flower Arrangement Classes Floral Association Building

February 25 March 25
Flower Arrangement Class. Mrs. J. R. Kirkpatrick, instructor. Floral Building, 9:30 a.m.

February 26 March 12 & 26
Ibekana Workshop. Mrs. Ralph Canter, instructor. Floral Building, 10 a.m.

February 28 March 14 & 28
Flower Arrangement Workshop. Mrs. Arthur J. Mitchell, instructor. Floral Building, 10 a.m.

CURTIS COLEMAN CO.

SINCE 1913

REALTORS

SALES

LEASES

REAL ESTATE LOANS

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

208 Bank of America Bldg.

233-6557

CAROLYN BEAUTY SHOP

CALL 234-5344

121 W. Juniper—Just off First Ave. Bus
Convenient Parking

THE ABSTRACT IN FLORAL DESIGN

THERE is something new in floral design, and a new group to express it. Even in its earliest days, members of the Floral featured flower arrangements in all their shows. To keep abreast of the latest ideas in this field, they often brought in expert exponents to teach the most up-to-date styles, from Japanese to modern. Over two years ago a section of the SDFA, devoted exclusively to floral arrangements, was organized as the "Flower Arrangers' Guild of San Diego." On March 2 and 3 they will stage their first Guild show in the Floral building. Its theme, "Trends of our Times," is illustrated by a photograph of an abstraction in floral art by Emily Carringer, of Point Loma, a member of the Guild. Vi Morgenroth, of La Jolla, who photographed the arrangement, describes it as follows:

"Out of the desert came this interesting example of form in nature. Here, in this desert discard, its finder-arranger utilized the inner structure of the saguaro, which grows so spectacularly in Arizona.

"Could you guess that this object was once a live, functioning part of that magnificent desert plant? The life-giving tubes which at one time belonged to the stately and fascinating structure of the saguaro shows, in this setting, the discipline of order so respected by good arrangers. By adding the diagonal line to the already interesting large piece, Mrs. Carringer has exercised the freedom of interpretation to be expected in an abstraction. Since an abstraction is divorced from realism, the viewer may prefer to select his own title.

"A stone slab provides a simple foundation for the gently-sloping, lyre-like arrangement, with a tuft of desert yucca barely visible beyond it. The color, a soft weathered gray, blends easily with its new environment. Does it inspire you to look for something new under the sun?"

Make a mental note of the date for this sparkling new show when, against colorful backgrounds and in unusual placements, more interpretations of modern trends may be seen. The ideas put forth will offer particularly helpful suggestions for the shows of other clubs. The outdoor area will furnish special settings for dramatic garden sculptures, containers and ceramics by members of the local Potters' Guild.



Photo by Vi Morgenroth

"Windsong," composition by Emily Carringer

FLOWER ARRANGERS' GUILD, of San Diego

Presents: *"TRENDS OF OUR TIMES"*

Saturday, March 2, 1 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, March 3, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

FLORAL BUILDING, BALBOA PARK

Donations, One Dollar

California Garden

February-March, 1963

Laurel Wreaths *for the* Marts of Trade



Lo, the mountain has come to Mahomet
... Trees have come to the city.

At last, cities are coming of age! Time was when it was thought that building blocks of brick and stone, piled high, straight up from the sidewalk, gave a sense of solidity that reflected the importance and dignity of the business world. That was the immemorial way to do it; that was the way it was done.

Then came the great rush to the suburbs. The swirl of living sucked some of the business world along with it. Out there in the rolling hills, brick and stucco became self-conscious. They

seemed to call for shadows, other than those of an architect's rendering. Value was found in the limbs and leaves of swaying trees and in the softness and basic greenness of grass. When all this was added, the people came and saw that it was good. They found what they had been missing in the downtown building blocks.

City merchants were quick to sense the drift of this change. A new psychology in selling was recognized. Verdure and color in garden plots, along with the lively shadows of trees on concrete, lift the spirits of the potential buyer so he is pleased with what he finds in the stores. The value of open garden space has been made crystal clear, even when weighed against the high front-foot cost of downtown property. Merchants who became aware of these facts set out large boxed trees that worked wonders for the blocks already built. They relaxed eye-strain, cooled the atmosphere and imparted a sense of gaiety.

Then downtown San Diego stirred and stretched—out and up. It seemed to happen suddenly, but determined and far-sighted builders had planned it long before. How lucky for her that the animation of the gardens of the Rockefeller Center and the charm of the patios of the Lever Building, had left their impact on the minds of sensitive architects seeking every possible means that would bring more beauty to their art. They discovered that Nature could be a working partner with building blocks, just as

woman complements man. How lucky for San Diego that the architects of this new era were available when San Diego began to grow. Along with these builders of blocks, how lucky that there were architects of landscape design who knew what trees would survive in restricted areas, as well as the plantings that would preserve the dreamy tropical feeling long associated with this town.

So much for the story of what has gone before. Now CALIFORNIA GARDEN sounds the trumpets and bids all draw near and give heed while it bestows wreaths of classic laurel upon the following financial firms who have used every available technique to create park-like atmosphere on valuable business sites. Because this is a garden journal, it also confers an honorable mention wreath of rosemary upon specially meritorious plants that are featured by these firms.



The Home Federal Savings and Loan Building on the corner of Seventh and Broadway in San Diego, towers eighteen stories high, but the tree-like clump of giant Bird-of-Paradise that seems to anchor it to the street gives an additional credit to its owners and to designers, Frank L. Hope and Associates, who concurred in making this planting possible.

Originally a great stand of stately *Strelitzia reginae* grew in the garden of the historic Pendleton house at Old Town. To save it from freeway oblivion, Home Federal commissioned J.




Vi Morgenroth

Security First National Bank
La Jolla Branch, 1044 Wall Street

A. Gunsaulus to crate and truck it to the colossal planter box it now occupies on the Broadway side of their building. There it soars, two flights up, against the glass front of this distinctive main entrance. Later in the season its blue and white "Birds" will stand out against the shade of the building. Right now tourists are intrigued by the blooms of the smaller-growing, orange-throated *Streptocarpus regina* selected by Mr. Gunsaulus for the lower part of the big container.

There is a tall slender palm, near the corner, that carries the eye up to glimpses of green on a roof garden. Closer inspection of this patio, from within the building, discloses boxed trees, including a row of Evergreen Pears in full white bloom. There will be other skyscrapers, but the chances are that the name of Home Towers will always be associated with the unusual Bird-of-Paradise plants it had the foresight to preserve and display. A very special kind of Savings!

 At Sixth and Cedar, the sidewalk planting of Jacaranda trees that softens and frames the approach to the John Burnham Co. Building, will compound its charm each year as it increases in size and bloom. The Burnham owners, with a traditional interest in horticulture behind them, the architects, Frank L. Hope and Associates, and the landscape architect, Roland Hoyt, are congratulated for successfully presenting a gracious entrance beneath a park-like canopy of trees in each of twin courtyards. They have even captured the intimacy of a home patio.

Shielding each entrance from the western sun, is a handsome up-standing evergreen tree, *Pittosporum undulatum*. In winter, the blossoms of this Victorian Box, will delight visitors with their fragrance, while the russet berries that follow will give an additional bonus. This tree also acts as a big-sister to a rare and unique Catalina Ironwood near by. Plant lovers will go far to see *Lyonothamnus asplenifolius*, especially in a setting where the fern-like leaves of this native of our offshore islands are reflected in the big windows of the architectural frame behind it. Even the shaggy gray trunk repeats the gray of the building, with an added accent of red deep down in cracked fissures. When the creamy-white flowers bloom, they will establish more "come hither."


The permanent shrubs beneath the trees always attract attention. *Ocoba multiflora* is often called the Mickey Mouse plant, because of its beady



John Burnham & Co.


1555 Sixth Ave., San Diego

black berries on a scarlet base and yellow petal ears. The bronzy notched leaves are also noteworthy. The gray note is picked up again by the strange shrub, *Corokia cotoneaster*, that looks a bit like tangled bailing wire with narrow silken leaves, an interesting foil for the Ironwood tree above it. The Burnham building is commended for its simplicity, that sets off, but does not compete, with the plantings. The landscapist has created a restful sense of space, coupled with many conversational gambits in the fascinating plant material he has used.

 We salute the Turrentine Building on Fourth and A because the owner, with the assistance of the same architects and landscape expert mentioned above, has solved the relationship of plant structures to concrete in an entirely different, but highly practical, way. In this case, Hope and Associates set the tenants of the block back from the street with a small park. Then Hoyt selected three specimen trees of *Melaleuca styphelioides*, a variety seldom seen, to filter the sun on the south. As the trunks of these trees grow older, attention will be focused on their spongy white masses of flaking bark, while the base tends to become blackish. Inside the building, investors can glance through the big window fronts to the fine needle-like foliage and flowers of these Bottlebrush Trees.

Outside, shrubs with thick shining reddish-bronze leaves, *Termstroemia gymnanthera*, hug both facades and blend nicely with the crisp cut foliage

of *Camellia sasanqua*, which will be encouraged to form a ground cover in the entrance plots. It will be spangled with single blooms in the early fall. There is a section on the east where privacy over the windows is obtained by an espalier of *Stenocarpus sinuatus*. This Firewheel Tree is difficult to grow, but it seems to be thriving so well that there may be hopes of its gorgeous red flowers some day. Bordering the curb, on each side of the corner there is a handsome row of *Ficus retusa*, or Indian Laurel, which seems to be the tree favored for downtown areas at this time.

 Across the way on A Street and the corner of Third, the Crabtree Office Building and its architects, Deems-Martin Associates, have devoted less space to their garden area, but they should be praised for retaining Gregory Cespedes to make the most of a small entrance that ties into a running border of plants across the front of the building. For the little patio he selected a tall guava, combined with tree ferns of good size and other shade plants, *Nandina domestica*, commonly called Heavenly Bamboo, will thrive in the long north planter, as will the ornamental flax and the ivy ground cover. Egyptian reeds and Golden bamboo in big planters, shield the west windows. The fine row of Indian Laurel near the curb beyond them will lend shade, as they increase in size. They should be sure to prosper after the extensive, thorough and expensive system of planting that placed them there.



Vi Morgenroth

**San Diego Trust and Savings Bank
La Jolla Branch, 7733 Girard Avenue**

Although La Jollans like to think of their town as a village, land values there are skyscraper high and parking space is very limited. Therefore, CALIFORNIA GARDEN bows as it presents a laurel wreath to the Security First National Bank of La Jolla and the good teams of Hope and Hoyt for the exceptional use they have made of their facilities on the corner of Wall and Herschel Streets. To begin with, the architect laid out six attractive garden panels for the landscape. These are punctuated by titillating pairs of cast-stone seats, on pedestals, and also by a dignified flag-pole base.

For this sunny court Mr. Hoyt selected *Albizzia julibrissin* trees. The bare multi-branched trunks of these Silk Trees are like modern sculptures set against the dark bank windows behind. They also let the winter sun shine in. It almost seems too bad that the lacy leaves and silky pink flowers of this Mimosa, as it is called in the South, will soon obscure those stark trunks, with frilly summer beauty. For contrast there are shapely *Arbutus unedo* trees with tiny vase-shaped flowers. Some are already beginning to form the rough-red fruits that give them the name, Strawberry Tree. Squares of Korean grass make an effective ground cover.

Of special interest in this bank complex is the large parking area on

Herschel. There the automobile entrance is made as handsome as the front by a length of oblong beds, parallel to the building. These are filled with tall stalks of *Mahonia bealei*. Whorls of dark leaves on these Holly-grapes, already tipped with trusses of yellow flowers, are a handsome standout against the gray walls of the bank. The gray note is repeated in the ground cover foliage of *Gazania uniflora*, which is tipped with yellow daisy blooms. Tall Strawberry Trees are silhouetted against a building at the back of the lot. There are specimen red-flowering eucalyptus, *Eucalyptus ficifolia*, at strategic points, and fine bronzy masses of African Box. A wire fence woven through with narrow strips of wood forms an unusual background for *Calliandra inequalatera*, the shrubby Pink Powderpuff. As it grows, the landscape around this sparkling new bank will convey, more and more, that sense of close kinship with Nature, so characteristic of La Jolla.

When the La Jolla Branch of the San Diego Trust and Savings Bank selected the site on Girard Avenue that included two towering eucalyptus trees in the parking strip, they established a high rating right then. They furthered this when they chose as architects, Robert Mosher and Roy Drew, who have always been attuned to natural beauty, and for the

landscape, Roland Hoyt, who would understand and give precedence to the dominance of these trees.

The results are superb; a bank structure whose dark overhanging roof, though far away, seems to snuggle down under the twisting branches of the eucalyptus as if it had always been there. The copper tones of the roof fascia repeat the colors of the leaves and tree-bark. There is a subtle understatement in the wall treatment and wood finish, inside and out, that carries a restful feeling, pleasing, but unusual, in a bank. The fine mellow relationship of trees to buildings that exists in the Green Dragon Colony is felt here. How much we owe to the bank and its architect for bringing that indefinable atmosphere of Old La Jolla to a modern bank in a new setting!

Framed by the two eucalyptus trees, the entrance to the parking and garden area of this bank is unmistakable. Mr. Hoyt has provided several pleasing items in the grounds. An espalier of magnolias, trained on an adjoining wall, will lend both fragrance and strong leaf pattern. Against the hedge, on that same side, is a tree to watch with great interest. *Davidia involucreata* is dormant now, but when the white flowers appear, with bracts that look like cream-colored wings, the name of Dove Tree will be understood. The alley is screened by a row of Carolina Cherries and, in the shade, by Nandinas. In a small planting in front of the bank, geared to a bronze placque, is an espalier with small gray-green leaves. *Melaleuca elliptica* is quite rare here. It grows in a rustic manner that will ultimately suggest the Australian Tea-tree. The new flower heads, of bottlebrush type, are in bud now. They should continue to bloom nearly all year.

San Diego Trust and Savings Bank, combined with Hope and Hoyt some time ago, to preserve an old Torrey Pine Tree on the lot of the bank's Point Loma Branch. There are also two fine specimens of Catalina Ironwood at the entrance to that parking lot, which add great prestige to the landscape.

This mingling of financial, architectural and horticultural interests in business areas, is most heartening. It increases the feeling that, given more time, all things do work together for good. CALIFORNIA GARDEN welcomes comments and suggestions for Laurel Wreath awards in other districts. We hope our readers will tell us of worthwhile projects that are helping to create a more beautiful city.

Camellia reticulata

The Temple Flower

A Garden heritage from Ancient China

IT HAS often been said that China is the Mother of Gardens. It is certainly true that from the slopes and canyons of her mountains have come many of our garden favorites. High on the list of valuable ornamental plants originating there are the magnolia, osmanthus and rhododendron. Yet perhaps the most spectacular of all plants of Chinese origin is *Camellia reticulata*.

This particular species was classed above all others by the Chinese themselves. History mentions the cultivation of *Reticulatas* as early as the tenth century. They were grown in temple gardens because they bloomed at the time of the Chinese New Year, when they played an important part in religious ceremonies. These plants also found their way inside the walled gardens of the very wealthy, and that could be why the western world was so slow to learn about them.

One variety of *C. reticulata* did come to light when a Capt. Rawes, the master of an English tea ship, brought it back to England in 1812. Always on the lookout for rare plants, he said it was offered to him in Shanghai. This startling beauty created a sensation among English plantsmen, who named it Capt. Rawes, for the worthy gentleman who had so tenderly cared for it on its long journey to England.

For over one hundred years this only known variety of *C. reticulata* was highly prized and widely grown.

Howard Asper was superintendent of Descanso Gardens in La Canada when the extensive camellia plantings were started there. More recently he was with the Huntington Botanical Gardens in San Marino, in the same capacity. He is now living in San Diego County, busily involved in producing new camellia hybrids.

In the year 1904, six plants of this type were imported to the United States, three of which reached California. Two of these left no record of their fate but one was planted in Strawberry Canyon on the University of California campus at Berkeley, where it still grows.

In 1924 George Forest, an English plant explorer, found the wild form

of *C. reticulata* on the mountain slopes of Yunnan province near the town of Kunming. From seed he sent to England we now have this species available for our own gardens. Its growth is quite vigorous, but its flower is a simple, rose-red single, about two inches in diameter. It is grown mainly by hybridizers who have found it sets seed very readily.



Camellia reticulata, William Hertrich, a new hybrid by Howard Asper.

In 1946 the rumor spread that there were many varieties of *Reticulatas* growing in the same location where the wild form was found. It was said that the beauty of these flowers was greater than that of any others known—in fact, they begged description.

Meanwhile public interest in camellias was growing rapidly so it was inevitable attempts would be made to import these fabulous varieties. Strangely enough, two men, each working without the knowledge of the other, succeeded at about the same time, the early part of 1948. Manchester Boddy, then of Los Angeles, and the late Ralph S. Peer, of Hollywood, had each ordered the same twenty varieties that seemed to be the only ones available then, although we have since read of many more. Mr. Boddy was able to raise fifteen out of his twenty, but Mr. Peer succeeded with only three. When these gentlemen learned they were each seeking the same goal they compared notes. They were surprised and delighted to find that the three plants Mr. Peer saved were among the five Mr. Boddy had lost. Working together they were able to introduce eighteen gorgeous new *C. reticulatas* into the gardens of Southern California.

As might be expected, each variety had its own oriental name, the translation of which is most poetic. Name lists are seldom interesting, but the following are bound to excite mental pictures. They are: Butterfly Wings, Crimson Robe, Noble Pearl, Lion Head, Chang's Temple, Purple Gown, Shot Silk, Pagoda, Moutancha, Chrysanthemum Petal, Large Cornelian and Willow Wand. This incomplete list represents the best names of the best varieties. It is impossible to describe the superlative beauty of these flowers, but they all have exquisite coloring, undulated petals and a spread of from six to seven inches that is the rule, rather than the exception.

The flowers are all any camellia fancier could desire but the growth habit and vigor of the plants are not what we might hope for. Leaves are dull as compared to our Japonicas. Sometimes their straggly form may be overcome by careful pruning. *Reticulatas* suffer easily from over watering or over fertilizing. This is probably due to their sparse foliage.

So far propagators have been unable to root *Reticulata* cuttings. They can increase their stock only by grafting. Usually rather large understock (which produces rapid growth) is used. This could account for the straggly habit.

These plants seem to thrive best in locations which afford a liberal amount of light. Early morning or late afternoon exposure to full sunlight is beneficial, while a midday covering providing half shade is ideal.

In the vicinity of Escondido, *Reticulatas* flower in the months of February and March. If exposed to freezing, the buds generally drop off. Some of the finest flowers in California have been produced in the mild locations near the coast.

Perhaps the greatest contribution these varieties will make to our gardens will be in the field of hybridization. It has been proven that they can be successfully crossed with the Japonicas. Several of the resultant hybrids show promise of combining the large flower of the *reticulata* with the sturdy compact plant of the Japonica.

One such hybrid, with a distinctive red flower, is being introduced this year. It bears the name of William Hertrick, curator emeritus of the Huntington Botanical Gardens, who so richly deserves to be honored in this manner. The plant is a definite improvement in growth habit and vigor and will prosper where others have failed.

Reticulata varieties can be obtained at the better nurseries and certainly at all good camellia nurseries. The size and beauty of their flowers is a challenge to a garden enthusiast, and success in their culture is a badge of merit.

In China, a collection of *Reticulatas* was passed from one generation to the next. It was considered a standard by which to measure family prestige. We are grateful that this wise custom served to conserve these flower treasures to enrich the gardens of the world today.



San Diego Camellia Society Show Chairman, Tim L. Miller (right); President Althea Hebert (center); Co-Chairman, Ferris Jones.

A MOST REWARDING

TREE - SHRUB

By C. I. Jerabek

WHEN asked to choose and write about one of the outstanding plants in the San Diego area, I thought of many, but quickly decided that the species *Callistemon viminalis* would be the most popular and probably the most rewarding for the average planter.

First, by way of description, this is a native of Australia and of the close-by, smaller island of Tasmania. Botanically, it belongs to the myrtle family. The grey-brown bark is persistent and the slender branches pendulous. The smaller branchlets are very flexible and well filled out with narrow, tough, bright-green leaves. The young growth is pinkish and silken-hairy in appearance. The beauty of the flowers is entirely in the flowering spikes, the bundles of brilliant, scarlet filaments and stamens. These spikes are at first terminal, but subsequently the growth pushes out beyond them. After the blooming, come the small, round, woody seed capsules in close clusters which contain the very minute seeds.

Now, about the plant in general as it appears in the garden or open landscape. It may be seen as a tree, a large bush, or with hard pruning, a very attractive hedge. It will flourish in any open location or warm exposure and is not too particular as to soil. A well positioned and close-grown plant can be a show piece in any garden.

To become acquainted with this tree in its many aspects and variability, visit the locations that follow: A giant for size, west of house 4737 Natalie Dr., one at 4570 47th Street, another at 3230 Dumas, also near at 3143 Curtis, then 4144 Poplar, 7567 High Ave., 4720 Norma Dr., 2620 Burgener Blvd., 2228 Reo Dr., 3057 Madrid, 1824-2044 Chicago, 836 Pennsylvania, 4670 Massachusetts, 4528 48th Street, 1236 Virginia Way, 4600 Kensington, 6030 Adelaide, and two at 4612 54th Street.

If grown as a tree, the stem should be staked until strong enough to hold erect. It can be effectively used as a street tree for narrow parkings, improved by removal of lower branches. Examples: Eleven trees at 1720 Moorland Dr., six at 5420 San Mateo Pl., 56, 57, 58, 5900 block on Roswell Street, 3246 Juniper Street, and in center of street, 2800 Third Street.

Digging for the *WHY* beneath the *WHAT*

By Frank Quintana

OVER the course of years of lecturing before garden clubs on soils and fertilizers, and the nutrient effects on plant growth, all the while making glib suggestions about what to use and how to use it, I have remained in awe of the remarkable understanding we presently have of these subjects. It has not been even thus. Tee-Vee dinners notwithstanding, Man, like the balance of the animal kingdom, is unable to make his own food, and from the day he appeared on earth, has been dependent for his very life directly or indirectly on plants. In view of this circumstance, it is equally remarkable that our present understanding should be of such recent vintage. It would be of interest to trace, at least in part, how we came to the vantage point we now hold.

Man's interest in plants and plant growth probably developed in prehistoric times, when he, like his modern counter-part, became fed up with moving. To stay in one place he had to learn how to grow sufficient foodstuffs to sustain him in that place. Since that time, no other subject except possibly, Love and War, has so held the attention of men as the phenomena of plant growth. Ancient manuscripts, painted pictures on the walls of old tombs and plant remains in primeval caves all attest to this early interest. The ancient Assyrians, Egyptians, Greeks, Romans, and the ancient American aboriginals all possessed some knowledge of the cultivation of edible and medicinal plants. Most early plant lore developed as a result of simple observation. One of the first theories was the idea that "Corruption is the Mother of Vegetation" springing from the observation that weeds or crops appeared to grow more luxuriantly where some animal or vegetable remains had rotted to nourish the soil. The same process led the an-

cients to believe that living matter could arise only from that which was once living itself, or had been involved in a life process. Today, slight variations of these ideas are the guiding principles of the organic gardeners.

The early Romans appear to have been the first to publish what might be called agricultural tests. In 1240, Petrus Crescentius, a Senator from Bologna, put together a collection of these earlier writings and published a book. This work was popular for about three hundred years, was copied frequently by hand, and when printing began, was put out in many editions. The early "Herbals" tended not so much to the reporting of fundamental principles as to the perpetuating of the mysteries of plant life. The influences of the planets were described, as were various magical phenomena: it was asserted that flowers became butterflies, and that leaves on falling from trees into water became fish. The 15th and 16th century saw more agricultural treatises appearing, first in Italy, and later in France. In these there are occasional glimpses of ingenious insight and speculation. Pallissy in 1563 made the observation that when dung is brought into a field, something is returned to the soil which had been taken out of it. Further, "When a plant is burned it is reduced to a salty ash that is called Alcaly (sic) . . . every sort of plant contains some kind of salt . . ." He commented that the burning of wheat straw in a field to be planted a second year to wheat, returned salts to the soil to improve it. "Being burnt on the ground it serves as a manure because it returns to the soil that which has been taken away." These speculations have been confirmed: other ideas held by men of those times have proved untrue. Proof had to await the development of the idea of experiment and the advent of agricultural chemistry.

From 1630 to about 1750 came a period when the search was on for the "principle of vegetation" as a means of explaining plant growth and soil fertility. No lesser light than Francis

Bacon was in on the argument. Bacon maintained that water was the primary requirement of plants and that the soil served only to keep them upright. He felt that each kind of plant extracted some "particular juyce," it needed from the earth. In Brussels, Van Helmont performed his famous willow experiment to prove Bacon's view of the requirement for water, and to end the idea about "particular juyces." Van Helmont took an earthen vessel and put into it 200 pounds of oven-dried earth. He then pressed into it a five pound willow shoot, and caused the earth to be covered by a tinned, iron sheet having perforations in it. He then tended the tree for five years, giving it nothing but rain water or distilled water. At the end of the experiment the tree weighed 169 pounds, and the soil, being dried again, weighed only three ounces short of the original 200 pounds. On the basis of this experiment, he concluded that the 164 pounds of bark, wood and root arose from water alone. I cannot escape noting at this point that I have some acquaintances who, at this date, still seem to believe that all a garden needs is water, and then, only when it is convenient to do the watering.

A man who seemed far ahead of his time was J. R. Glauber, who in 1656 reasoned that if cattle ate plants, and cattle manures appeared to improve soil fertility, something in the plant must pass through the animal to be returned to the soil. He extracted from cattle manures the salt potassium nitrate (saltpetre), and when this was applied to the soil, great increase in yield was observed. He then concluded that the saltpetre was present in all plants, and was the sought-after principle of vegetation. Although some others followed up on this work, it seemed to have been lost in the arguments presented by more vociferous workers.

In the manner of modern plant scientists, John Woodward in 1699, published a work in which he disputed Van Helmont's hypothesis about water. Woodward grew pots of spearmint

Frank Quintana lives in La Jolla, where he grows fabulous plants and collects garden books. He is a manufacturing chemist.

which he watered with (1) rain water, (2) water from the River Thames, (3) water from a Hyde Park Conduit, and (4) Hyde Park Conduit water to which he added small quantities of garden soil. He reported that the increase in yield was directly in proportion to impurity of the water used in the experiments. He thus concluded that plants are not formed of water, but of some kind of terrestrial matter dissolved in the water and drawn up into the plants.

In 1731, a Jethro Tull, who had invented the "Horse Hoe" maintained that by hosing the soil into fine condition, the plants could obtain minute particles of soil "through the mouths of their roots." Thus it was tillage, and not water, or particular "juices" that would produce "the proper pabulum" (sic) for plants.

Tull's writings were well regarded, and some of his influence may be recognized in the following excerpt from James Wheeler's "*Botanist's and Gardener's New Dictionary*" published in 1763. In discussing manure (traditionally called dung by Britons) he maintains, "All kinds of dung contain some matter, which when mixed with the soil ferments therein, and by that fermentation, dissolves the texture of the earth, and divides and crumbles its particles very much." He explains that the fermentation is due to the salts dung contains, but points out correctly that if these salts are applied directly to the plant roots, death is the result. He then concludes, "This proves that the business of the dung is *not* to nourish, but to divide and separate the terrestrial matter, which is to afford nourishment to vegetables through the mouths of their roots." He then proceeds to state that manure used in the garden will spoil the flavor of vegetables and even wines made from matured grapes! (Organic Gardeners please note.) According to Wheeler, "... it is a general observation which the French express in these words, that the poor people's wine of Languedoc is the best, because they carry no dung into their vineyards." Mostly the argument against using manure is pointed at gardens. Wheeler switches abruptly into reverse, praising use of manure in field (farming) operations. Confusing!

From 1750 through 1800 experimenters and societies (formed to encourage agricultural experiment) proliferated. In spite of the high degree of interest not much progress resulted. Francis Home in 1757 summed up the status of the art. After much pot experiment he learned that a variety of

substances appeared to affect increases of yield. He maintained that the art of agriculture centered on one point, the nourishment of plants, and concludes that the food of plants appeared to be not one thing but several. He listed them to be Air, Water, Earth, Salts, Oil, and Fire In A Fixed State.

About half way through this chronological period, Joseph Priestly reported the stimulating observation that plants seemed to purify stale (vitiated) air. Oxygen had not yet been discovered, but it was well known that the breathing of air robbed it of the stuff that supported life. It was reasoned that if nothing happened to purify this breathed air, sooner or later, all fresh air must be used up. Priestly placed sprigs of living mint in jars of vitiated air, and observed that the plants rendered it purer. This statement generated arguments that raged for thirty years. After Priestly had discovered oxygen, the problem was finally resolved, it was demonstrated that light was required by the plant to perform its purifying action. In darkness, the plants exhaled carbon dioxide. Jean Senebier in 1799 then reasoned that if a plant breathed air, the increased weight of the willow in Van Helmont's experiment came not from water, but from air. This started a whole new set of arguments, the basis thereof being the source of the carbon dioxide. The opposing teams chose sides based upon whether the plant obtained its carbon from the air or from the humus fraction of the soil.

A careful experimenter, and excellent logician, De Saussure next entered the picture. He demonstrated that if a plant was grown in air that had carbon dioxide removed from it, the plant died. He also demonstrated that only a small part of the plant's food requirements are provided by the soil, but that, small as they were, they were indispensable to the plant. He showed that combined nitrogen and mineral substances were absorbed from the soil by the plant's roots. He showed that different salts are absorbed at different rates, and that the ash (mineral residue) of the plant varied, depending upon the age of the plant and the nature of the soil where it was grown.

In spite of the quality of De Saussure's work, it was not accepted. The battle of the published papers continued, centering on where the plant obtained its carbon. For the most part, the heavyweights of the time leaned on the humus fraction of the soil, and repetitiously dogmatized that without humus life could not be imagined. These postulations were finally laid to rest by Liebig, a scientific giant of his

time, whose sarcastic invective was equalled only by his own scientific ability. His papers on how plants obtain carbonic acid (Carbon Dioxide) from the air are a monumental squelch on the cherished but unjustified thinking of his opponents' humus-fraction theories. Liebig established that the plant obtains its carbon from the air, where there is an inexhaustible supply, BUT, in early stages of growth, it may also obtain some of its supply from the soil. Humus, which generates carbon dioxide in the soil, is therefore useful to have and to maintain in supply, but the role assigned to it by earlier workers as the Only and Principal carbon source was incorrect.

Liebig demonstrated the plant's requirement for nitrogen, phosphorus and potash, but, in working with meadowlands, he was led astray in the belief that if *only* the latter two elements were supplied, the nitrogen could take care of itself. If he erred here, his effort still stands as a major step forward, and his work led later investigators to greatly enlarge our body of knowledge of the nutrient requirements for plant life. From Liebig's time forward, masses of data were accumulated by a legion of dedicated scientists. Aside from mentioning the water cultures of Knop, who with other plant physiologists led the way to discovering the identity of the various elements essential for plant life, it is not possible within the scope of this article to proceed further in detail. Plant science has now progressed to the place where nutrient requirement is only one of many branches of investigation. The riddles of photosynthesis, genetic inheritance, growth-regulating substances, plant metabolism and disease resistance are all yielding to the persistent efforts of those dedicated people whose aim is to enlarge our understanding of the Green Tyranny under which we have so long survived.

It is not intended that this little history of our search for knowledge be thought to be complete. Lest the spectators of those whose names and works were omitted be offended, I submit that more complete documentations of the struggle to wrest these secrets from Nature exist. The sum of all these efforts is that in discussing the roles of plant nutrients, we are now enabled to speak with the assurance of validity, can prepare materials of great usefulness in gardening and agricultural pursuits, and can diagnose, prescribe for, and maintain fertility in what is perhaps our most important natural resource, our soils.

ESPALIERS

For
Useful
Beauty

Is your garden crowded? Give your plants an uplift.

TRAINING plants in espalier patterns means more garden in less space for the city dweller. A family fruit orchard may be developed in that unusable strip of soil between walk or garage or in the narrow space between a driveway and a fence. Espaliers offer unparalleled opportunities for decorative effects as well. The wide choice of forms and of plants suitable for espalier work makes it possible to satisfy a wide variety of garden needs.

The type of espalier we know best is simple to create with a moderate investment of time and patience. Right-angled branches grow horizontally from a strong central leader, with the laterals balanced on either side, rising symmetrically in tiers. The leader makes a small point at the top. A flat plane is maintained by eliminating all opposing branches. This type, a traditional French pattern, goes by the group name, espalier.

The English Gridiron pattern adds a new twist by shortening the running length of the horizontal arms, and turning them up at vertical right angles. The result resembles a candelabra. The similar French Vertical Cordon looks like a tuning fork or trident. Both patterns employ L-shaped laterals and vary the horizontal span. Though striking, they require great care in the bending process, since reductions must be gradual.

In Fan-shaped espaliers, the branches are trained to radiate at oblique angles, like the sticks of a fan. As the new leader grows out, the process is repeated until the palm-leaf design takes form. Branches are raised or lowered in the process to insure adequate sap flow during the training period. When the pattern has been achieved, terminal buds are pruned away regularly to prevent out-of-scale growth.

The standard and bush type espaliers, which are free-standing and quite informal, could more accurately be called topiary pieces. To restrict growth, the leader is eliminated in

these types also, and regular pruning of terminal and outside buds keeps them flat and in scale with the garden.

In France, commercial fruit growers employ the cordon system of training to utilize all possible space in their orchards. The fruit trees, trained along taut wires strung between heavy wooden posts, become verdant ropes with brightly colored apples and pears ripening in the sun upon them. Some of Europe's finest fruit is grown in this way. Although in some areas we cordon our grapes, we seldom use this method of growing other fruits.

French orchardists also use Oblique cordons for space economy, as well as the spectacular Single cordon, with two opposite horizontals, and the Vertical cordon in both the double- and triple-pronged upright types. In these latter forms, all vertical laterals are set close to the leader.

Perhaps the best way to demonstrate the process of training espaliers is to concentrate on fruit trees, though the

principles will be the same for most other plants. Certainly fruit tree espaliers offer the greatest rewards, since they are not only beautiful but productive as well. Citrus is especially popular in our area; dwarf kumquats, Meyer lemons, dwarf oranges, tangerines, and tangeloes all make lovely living decorations and bear generous amounts of fruit as well. Loquats can be trellis-trained and used in the same way, though on a larger scale. Think of the related color harmonies in orange, yellow, and bitter green.

In setting forth to become a city orchardist in the French tradition, or a country squire fruit grower, the first step is to obtain good stock. From the best available nursery, order maiden fruit trees with strong central shoots. They should be selected from choice varieties of true dwarf stock, well grafted. Self-sterility factors and your planting zone are both matters for consideration. Your nurseryman can be an ally here.



Hibiscus America, on south wall of service area in Fashion Square, Santa Ana, California.



vertical and horizontal cordon



random



three grid



double stem

TYPES OF ESPALIERS



single "U"



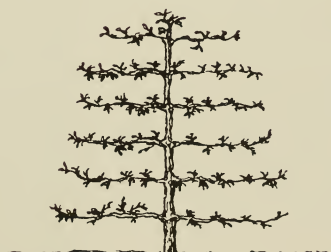
double "U"



triple "U"



vertical espalier



horizontal espalier

Drawings reproduced by permission of Brooklyn Botanic Garden from their Handbook on Trained and Sculptured Plants, Summer, 1961.



(photo) Vi Morgenroth

Algerian ivy espalier in decorative diamond pattern in La Jolla Hermosa. Freestanding wall is actually at right angles to the house, forming a parking area. A dramatic achievement at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Crawford Reynolds, 6378 Camino de la Costa, La Jolla.

Since few fruit trees prosper in shade, a warm sunny location is a prerequisite to real success in fruit growing. Well drained, good loamy soil is needed for best results. It should be dug deeply, and enriched and augmented as required, before setting out the tree.

In cool climates, espaliered trees can be planted 6 to 8 inches from walls. The reflected heat stored in the wall will aid in ripening the fruit. In warmer sections, the distance from the wall should be increased to 10 to 12 inches. This placement insures adequate ventilation at the back of the tree, and prevents the dryness of too much heat from the wall.

Since fruit crops are heavy on these dwarfed and highly restricted flat trees, strong support is necessary to bear the weight of the crop. If long laterals are planned, stout wires strung between posts and drawn quite taut prove satisfactory. For shrubs and specimens in planters, well constructed trellises may be used.

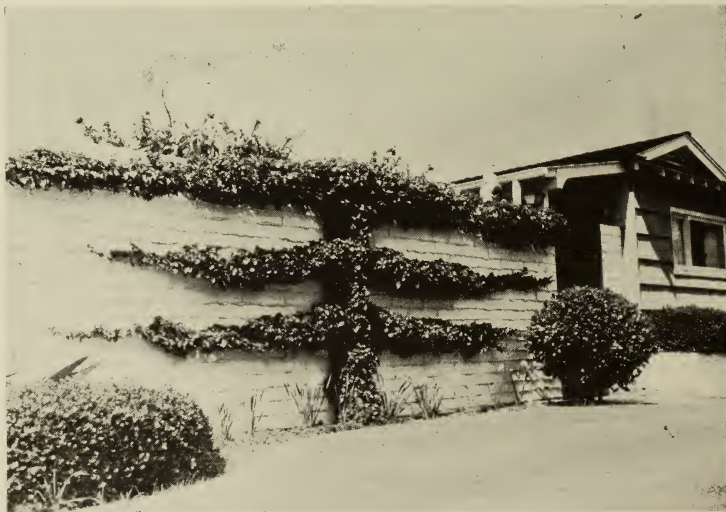
If design factors are well planned in advance, metal rings may be bolted into stone or block walls to support the developing plant. Trellises, with posts sunk in concrete, may be designed for the tree's form, but need to be well braced at the top. The branches of espaliered plants should never be bound tightly to the framework. Raffia, the new plastic tape or old leather shoe laces make adequate ties.

Proper pruning is the key to maintaining the chosen pattern after the fruit tree or other espaliered shrub has been planted. The primary cut is made at about 12 inches above the

ground. This cutting back of the leader forces the growth of the first two lateral arms. In warm climates such as Southern California the leader may be cut back again in late winter at a point about 12 inches above the first cut. This will produce a second pair of lateral branches. Laterals are successively produced in this way as the ladder of the espalier takes form. Oblique positioning of the laterals creates a fan pattern, and right-angle or L-shaped tying and bending make regu-

lar Gridiron or French Cordon types.

When non-fruit-bearing leafy twigs grow out from the laterals, they are cut back to the branch, leaving a tuft of leaves to nourish the incipient fruit spurs which will emerge at these points from the old wood. Care must be taken to avoid bruising any fruit spurs during pruning. In order to preserve the balance of leaf and root foods, all leaf shoots under 8 inches in length are left on the plant. The chlorophyll food made in the leaves



(photo) Thos. L. Crist

A bougainvillea vine is brilliantly used as an espalier against a white brick wall in the front garden of Admiral Beverley R. Harrison, 670 Alameda Blvd., Coronado, California.

drains downward, and the sap rises up through the branches to nourish the tree. The bending required for training inhibits the sap flow to some extent and helps to keep the tree small.

Rigorous pruning starts in mid-June and is kept up continuously throughout the summer. At summer's end, the ground around the tree is thoroughly cultivated and a 3-inch layer of well-rotted manure is spread and covered with a heavy mulch. All leafy, non-fruiting twigs are cut back to the branch, leaving the usual leaf tufts. In January in warm areas such as Southern California, the leader may be cut back again.

In the Spring the manure and mulch are well dug into the earth. The light April pruning is resumed, and in mid-June the constant cutting of leafy twigs commences. Liquid fertilizer made by draining water through good manure, can be added in July and August. Forcing and fertilizing produce heavy fruit crops. With this intensive type of fruit culture all branches of the espalier bear fruit. If fruiting is too heavy some spurs are cut out, to give air and growing space to the rest of the fruit.

Many other plant materials make fine espaliers. For grace and elegance use the Mystery gardenia, or, the sturdier, more unusual *Gardenia thunbergia*, which thrives against a warm wall. Its long flower tubes, capped with overlapping whorls of white petals, lend fragrance to the garden.

The willow form and shining



(photo) Thos. L. Crist

Two espaliered pyracanthas on walls of a garden in Coronado. Fabulous Blue Palm, *Erythea armata*, inside the wall.

leaves of *Camellia sasanqua* are just made for espaliers. In early fall these lovelies are available in bloom. Their single wild-rose type of flower comes in lovely shades from white to red. They have much charm, but the bloom shatters easily.

Nothing could prove more practical or enduring than an espalier of *Pittosporum tobira*. It has surprising interest and style when trained with strong right-angled laterals and a good cen-

tral leader against house or garden walls. This carefree evergreen withstands dust, drought and abuse, even in the most exposed and underprivileged locations.

Grewia caffra is another fast grower despite sun or wind. The three-inch, toothed, gray-green leaves seem to flatten themselves against the wall. The small starlike lavender-blue flowers are almost everblooming.

A generous use of red-berried pyracanthas, trained in dramatic espalier patterns in sturdy planter boxes, will bid a gay welcome to guests at Yuletide and continue to delight visitors with foamy trusses of white blossoms in the spring. The Evergreen Pear has similar charm but no fruit.

Because of its irregular growth habit and short needle-like leaves, *Podocarpus totara* is well suited to a Japanese type of espalier.

Calliandra inequilatera makes a most colorful espalier. It is called Pink Powderpuff, for its fluffy blooms that flower from October through March. When the flowers are gone the pinnate leaves show a distinct bronze color on the new foliage. A strong grower, it requires frequent shaping.

Bauhinia galpini is a gay vining shrub. With warm weather, the dormant boughs burst into a profusion of twin leaves, followed later by striking orange-red flowers. It is easy to train, does best on a south wall, out of the wind.

The use of hibiscus as an espalier is new, but fine for San Diego where



Cissus antarctica, Kangaroo Treebine espalier. A handsome evergreen vine with shining leaves, clean and hardy, from Australia. Fashion Square, Santa Ana, California.



Vitis (Cissus) voinieriana, a vine with very large five-parted leaves. A huge grower with striking young foliage. Espalier at Fashion Square, Santa Ana, California.

it needs the extra bonus of heat reflected from a wall.

Almost any vine makes an espalier. Pick a pattern and train to shape. Bouganvilleas are most brilliant but how does the pruner withstand the thorns? For a striking silhouette against stucco walls, the "quickie" gardener can entwine ropes of medium-leaf ivy on welded iron trees.

Whether our materials are fruiting, flowering or vining, we must pay tribute to the genius of Louis Lorette who taught us a new technique for handling them. His beautiful and varied espalier patterns, which have served France for a great many years, are now being adopted by eager amateurs in America and elsewhere around the world.



(photo) Vi Morgenroth

Pyrus kawakami, Evergreen Pear espalier on the front retaining wall of the residence of Rear Adm. Sydney B. Dodds, 2961 First St., San Diego.

EVENTS

"Look San Diego" noon luncheon. Cafe del Rey Moro, Balboa Park.

March 1—The Urban Landscape
Speaker, Donald Tempkins

March 15—Vital Civic Architecture
Speaker, William Lewis, Jr.
Luncheon and lecture, \$2.50
Lecture (to non-members), \$1.00
Presented by Citizens Coordinate.

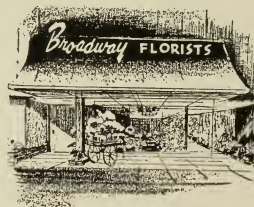
After 16 years of fine news and photographic coverage of San Diego County, "Union Title Topics" bows out as — "the picture CHANGES." We salute the firm, Union Title Insurance and Trust Company for their splendid work, and express our thanks for the many times we have used pictures from their Historical Collection, including one on the back cover of this number.

EXOTICA NURSERY

One block west of the stop light in
SOLANA BEACH

Bromeliads and Other
House Plants a Specialty

ON THE PLAZA — 755-1949 — OPEN DAILY



733 Broadway 239-1228
Validated Customer Parking at Rear of Store

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

bi-monthly magazine

Only \$2 a year
(add \$1 for foreign postage)

CALIFORNIA GARDEN
Balboa Park
San Diego 1, Calif.

Please enter my subscription:

.....
.....
.....

A Calendar of Care

● GARDEN CHORES

California gardeners should be very busy at this season. Now they can plant everything from trees to annuals. Naturally, that brings us to the subject of soil preparation. Since you can only get beneath the roots of a large plant *before* you put it in its hole, try to insure future drainage. Be sure the hole is not a pocket that will hold the harmful salts of our Colorado water to the great disadvantage of the plant roots. When drainage is solved, if the soil is poor, try some of the liquid amendments or a dry one, such as Humisite, in addition to plenty of compost. If you lack the latter, ground fir bark is excellent or wood shavings which are generally available. If you use the latter, don't forget to add more nitrogen, which is necessary to help break down the shavings.

Look over established plants. Those that are pot-bound will benefit by being moved to larger containers. This is especially true of azaleas and camellias which move better, whether in pots or ground, if changed before new leaves begin to grow. Of course canned items from a nursery can be planted anytime. If shrubs and trees are bare give a clean-up spray as soon as the buds swell, then start a weekly spray plan, using a combined fungicide and insecticide. New growth is always followed by aphids. A hard spray of water may give some control. As the weather warms up be sure to put out slug and snail bait.

Bare root trees and shrubs must go in fast now, but subtropical (tender) types should wait for warmer weather. Stake new plantings and use plastic tape for ties—such a good invention because it gives as it binds. Water thoroughly when you plant and watch the watering carefully thereafter to keep up with new growth and roots.

Let's say it again — don't prune frosted plants until you are sure the nippy season is over. Then—wait for signs of new growth and prune back

to a live eye or cut dead branches to the ground if new shoots are coming up. If you have not already done so, clear out interlacing branches in trees and shrubs. Plants that have flowered or finished a crop of berries should be cut back to encourage more new wood for the next crop of flowers. March is the dilatory man's opportunity to atone for past neglect. Cut back ivy, marguerites and geraniums, both zonal and ivy types. Tip cuttings are an easy way to increase stock. Thin lanterns, bougainvilleas and hibiscus, if not frosted. This is the usual time to cut back poinsettias, but if you cut later the flowers will be larger. Clivias, which have been giving a warm glow to dark winter corners, may be divided, but they resent it. The same is true of agapanthus. You can also separate bilbergias, cannas, gerberas, flowering salvias, sedums and water-lilies.

If it has not rained, be vigilant during this drought period. Be sure water goes down far enough for the deep-rooted trees and shrubs to use it. Don't guess. Probe the soil to see how far the moisture has penetrated. Except for frosted plants, give close attention to the watering of all vegetation in the garden, or more plants will die from drought than frost.

Use a commercial fertilizer on established ornamentals, shrubs, trees and perennials. Lawns need a quick-acting fertilizer to bring back the green color. Try some new ground covers, as mentioned elsewhere in this magazine. A mulch of fir bark around all plantings is a good investment. It conserves moisture, is very long-lasting and has an acidifying action.

A tip on new rose plantings... if a bush does not seem to "take hold" as it should, by sending out new shoots, try piercing the sides of a big corrugated box with large holes for ventilation, and placing it over the bush to form a temporary greenhouse. Examine the bush from time to time and remove the box gradually when the plants sprout.

You should make full use of spring color at this season. Select azaleas in bloom. They are especially good in containers, so they can be brought into the patio when you want to make a show. As azaleas fade, pelargoniums take over. Prune, pot and feed these

Martha Washingtons now so they will be ready to give clusters of fine flower color later, over a period of months. Young plants do best. They start so easily from short cuttings that old woody specimens should be discarded after two years. They also are very successful in wooden containers.

Look for a special plant that tops the list for continuous color and is a big spreader too—*felicia* Santa Anita. It blooms all the time except when the dead flowers must be cropped. White and yellow marguerites have no lazy season, a great boon for club decorators. There are pink marguerites too. *Ageratum* is another dependable but must be watched for mealybugs.

If you are willing to pick the spent flowers, there is no more satisfying sweep of color than that of violas. You can always find petunias that do just what you want in the way of color, except in blues, and how they last and last. They are so much less work than the zinnias and summer bedders. The former will miss some of the mildew trouble if planted early.

Robert Calvin
Organic Gardening Club

● CAMELLIAS

THIS is blossomtime for camellia enthusiasts.

Cultural requirements at this season are light. Paramount on the schedule is a watering pattern affording the plants adequate moisture. Frequency will vary with climatic conditions, but deep watering once a week should be about right in the coastal area; twice a week in more arid regions. Rain will often relieve you of this chore. Keep in mind, however, that about one inch of rainfall is required for the deep watering of ground-grown plants.

Syringing off the plants and wetting down adjacent walks to increase humidity in dry weather will pay off in larger and better quality blooms. About midday is the ideal time for this, but a morning or evening syringing during blossomtime is better than none at all. So far as possible, avoid turning the hose on open or opening blooms, especially white ones. A strong stream of water will bruise petal tissue and cause blemishes most readily apparent on the white flowers. Sun beating down on wet blooms also causes some discoloration.

Watch out for insects. Tender, swelling buds are a prime target for aphids and some nocturnal marauders. Damage inflicted will result in blemished and distorted flowers. Dust or spray with a good insecticide. Dusting chlorodane around the base of the plants will control ants and, in turn, check the spread of aphids.

When cutting blooms for home enjoyment, the question arises whether to cut a twig with several leaves attached or to cut immediately under the bloom so as to avoid removing a growth bud.

In the case of medium to large plants of the popular Japonicas, by all means take some foliage when desired. Japonicas set numerous growth buds and a vigorous plant will renew itself quickly. Fact is, such plants are often invigorated by thinning out dense growth. Thus an eye to the spring pruning and shaping of the plants will often permit taking a shoot with a bloom or two.

The practice with small plants is to take only the bloom, encouraging plant development by leaving all possible foliage and growth buds.

Reticulata foliage is rarely removed. This species, most varieties of which were imported from China's Yunnan Province less than 20 years ago, sets relatively few growth buds and most of these are at the branch tips. Next year's crop of flowers is dependent on the growth buds flanking this season's blooms.

Now is the season to consider additions to your camellia collection. Plants in full bloom are available at most nurseries.

It is also camellia showtime. The annual show of the San Diego Camellia Society was held in Balboa Park the first Saturday and Sunday in February. The great Los Angeles area show will be staged in Descanso Gardens, La Canada, Saturday and Sunday, March 2 and 3.

These floral expositions present new and rare varieties as well as established favorites. When a particular variety excites your fancy, note the address of the exhibitor. This is important since some varieties do well only at high elevations or in cold areas. Some cold-sensitive varieties thrive best in warm areas. Most shows feature an information booth where you may check on the suitability of plants.

Clive Pillsbury
SD Camellia Society

ROLAND HOYT*

RECOMMENDS

Sophora Secundiflora

MESCALBEAN or Peanutbush is a North American native that is not very well known beyond its native habitat and should have another look for whatever may be seen for garden and landscape. It ranges from Texas into the mountains of New Mexico and south into central Mexico. This would indicate hardiness into lower warm temperature regions and experience in Southern California colder areas will corroborate this. Menninger refers to it in "Flowers of the World" as Texas Mountain-laurel, although it is not in any way related to either the classic laurel or our mountain-laurel . . . note here the many vernacular names in the plant list that borrow the term laurel to lift their "boy" status-wise. This plant is a slow to moderate-growing evergreen shrub or small tree to 35' with a narrow head from a short trunk. The generic name is from a Latin interpretation of an Arabian word meaning a tree with pea-like leaves.

These leaves are compound and four to eight inches long, the leaflets somewhat shining, dark yellowish, generally off-green, seven to nine to the leaf, the odd one at the tip which is characteristic of the pea family. The leafage is substantial and wears well, the leaflets 1½ to 2½ inches long usually rounded at the tip, sometimes obscurely notched. They are covered with a fine hair when young, which imparts a silky aspect. This silkiness carries over in the fruiting pod which looks as much like a peanut as a bean when carrying two seeds. It is rigid to the branch in a fixed, strong arch and may be as long as 8" with sharp restrictions between seeds. The pod of a single seed will be perfectly round and, together with the arched "handle" suggests a white, pigmy bit of pottery. The foliage is subject to the genista worm and other tent-type caterpillars, but in the writers' experience comparatively easily controlled.

From February to April and later, sweetpea-like flowers appear in showy racemes as illustrated in the Alfred Hottes drawing below, but sometimes originate terminally, severally in a kind of head. They elongate to 4" or more overall with the violet-blue flowers shedding fragrance throughout a considerable area when heat and proper humidity coincide . . . said to react immediately to rain in natural habitat.

This plant requires heat to reach its best performance and sharp drainage, as of a gravelly soil. It tends to shatter in heavy clays, the stems splaying weakly, even resting on the ground. It gets along in dryish, alkaline soils although it will want water during the blooming period. Its Rio Grande derivation would suggest that a superior flowering capacity may be fostered by an alternation of dryness and moisture.

The form most often encountered is that of an open-textured bush which will necessarily be whipped up by the shears to a single stem for the tree, under domestication. It can be developed into a very successful espalier and held indefinitely in good form. It should be pointed out, however, that the "mousy" white pods attract adult and children alike for closer inspection. They open to a hard red seed, the size and appearance of a large lima bean which is said to be toxic when taken internally, causing delirium after general excitement, finally sleep . . . death in excess, according to Riedel . . . no such result has been reported in the writers' experience or knowledge.



*Member ASLA, author of *Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions*.

ROSE GROWERS . . .

YOUR ROSES WILL REALLY PERFORM WITH COUNTRY SQUIRE ROSE FOOD!

Country Squire Rose Food is THE one that has been tested and approved by THE SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY . . .

This chemist-developed society-approved formula 8.8.8 is now available at most better nurseries throughout San Diego . . . ask your nurseryman for it. If he doesn't yet stock it, have him drop us a card and we'll deliver the order within two days.

Write to: COUNTRY SQUIRE FERTILIZERS

P.O. Box 16, La Jolla, California

MISSION HILLS NURSERY

Large Selection of Roses, Blooming Azaleas

Since 1924

We Give S&H Green Stamps

Phone 295-2808

1525 Fort Stockton Drive

San Diego 3

G. S. JOHNSON ROSE NURSERY

8549 MAGNOLIA AVENUE, SANTEE, CALIFORNIA
Corner Magnolia & Prospect — On Highway 67

17 years in same location

Phone: 448-6972



ROSE SPECIALISTS



Bare Root Bush Roses . . . Climbers and trees available January through April . . . or . . . plant from cans all year.

ALSO GENERAL NURSERY STOCK

OPEN 7 DAYS — 8:00 A.M. TO 5:30 P.M.



Artistry in Hair Design

**1253 Rosecrans
San Diego
phone 222-6686**

Virginia Georgion, Mgr.

OPEN EVENINGS FOR YOUR
CONVENIENCE

WINNER OF 150 TROPHIES

● ROSES

THIS is the time of the year when the Southern California rosarian is occupied by three seasonal chores, bare root planting, pruning, general cleanup and mulching.

Prior to planting, of course, your roses must be selected and purchased. Generally speaking, it is better to buy bare root roses from a local nursery man. He will stock those new varieties which do well and he will be a source of excellent advice as to color, fragrance and habit. Don't forget to ask him whether a new beauty will mildew or rust easily. If you live near the sea, your fungus problems are different than in the back country.

Be sure the plant you select is number one grade although a vigorous 1½ grade is better than a dried out number one. Unfortunately not all nurserymen take as good care of their plants as others, so patronize the man who keeps the roots covered at all times with moist sawdust or plant mix and who wraps the roots with moist material for the trip to your home. It is very important to keep roots moist and covered at all times before planting. Be sure to buy your roses before they have had time to sprout very much if at all. Those nice green shoots often wither and die and then the plant has to start all over again.

New varieties which have done very well are Tropicana, Memoriam, Royal Highness, Avon, John S. Armstrong, Kings Ransom and climber Royal Sunset. Ginger and Golden Slippers are good floribundas although it is impossible to name all the recent good ones.

Any good book such as the Sunset "How to Grow Roses" will give detailed planting instructions. In this area there are some fine points often overlooked. Plant with the root crown just below the surface of the ground and with the bud union well above the surface. Many garden soils have poor drainage, so never put in the hole anything which will decompose and poison the roots. It is better not to use anything than to use steer manure, grass clippings, turf or compost. Lighten the soil if you must with peat moss or planting mix and incorporate a cup or two of bone meal and a handful of Humisite, nothing else.

Make sure the roots are in contact with the soil by pressing and kneading with the hands and working up into the root crown, but do not trample down with your feet as some direc-

tions indicate. Use a gallon or two of water in the hole to assist in this process and while planting keep the roses in a bucket of water to prevent drying out. Do not allow them to soak longer than 24 hours however.

The secret of getting good growth started is high humidity and warmth. If you have the ambition, lightly fogging a couple of times a day (early morning and noon) and shading if the sun gets too hot will do a much better job than hilling up or covering with a plastic bag. A month of attention now will amply repay you later on.

If you intend to have blooms for the Spring Rose Show; now is the time to prune established roses for control and better bloom. Depending upon the variety, the first crop of perfect blooms arrives from 60 to 90 days after pruning. This means that pruning chores should be begun the middle of January and finished the first week in February. Better early than late. For detailed instructions refer to "Doc" Thompson's book on pruning roses and the article in the last issue of this magazine. It is excellent practice to seal each cut with an asphalt base grafting compound such as TREEHEAL. Clip off any remaining leaves and the job is done.

Pruning completed, this will be the one opportunity through the year to clean up the rose bed. Remove old mulch and leaves. A good drenching spray at this time is good but if new buds are rapidly developing, do not use recommended dormant spray strength as this will injure new shoots. A sulfur spray such as Calsul or Orthorix is good although I depend on soil sulfur applications at this time both for pH control and fungus suppression. Sprinkle a scant cup of soil sulfur around each plant and work in lightly. At the same time a light dressing of calcium sulfate (gypsum), bone meal and ground hoof and horn is good. Hoof and horn is far better than blood meal as a slow acting source of nitrogen. Mulch is then applied and the hard part of growing and enjoying roses is over for another year.

The best mulch is the material which is cheapest in your area. Sawdust, wood chips, coarse ground bark, wood shavings, bean straw, and compost are all available here. In other localities, ground corn cobs, cocoa hulls, and buckwheat hulls have been highly recommended. A mulch several inches thick will keep down weed growth and assist in retaining soil moisture. It is less important to mulch along the coast because humidity is

usually high. Peat moss about 1/2 inch thick several times a year (because it disintegrates so rapidly) is beneficial both for heavy and very porous soils. It tends to cake easily, so should be roughed up once in a while with a scuffle hoe. As will be explained in a subsequent column, most mulches require the use of additional nitrogen as the season progresses.

The San Diego Rose Society meets the third Monday evening each month at 8:00 P.M. in the Floral Building, Balboa Park. Rose problems are discussed and you will be welcome.

D. A. Wilson
SD Rose Society

● ORCHIDS

A cymbidium's growth is most dormant at this time of the year. If you are faced with the job of repotting any of your orchids, get started right now. Of course those in flower will have to wait, but those without bloom spikes can be first on your list. An early start on this job will give the plants a chance to recover from shock before they start to grow and bloom. Try to finish all necessary repotting and dividing by the end of April, when rapid growth begins. Later than this will seriously disturb the growth cycle and lower the chances of flower spikes. Check your plants now to see if they need repotting. For heaven sakes don't report unless you need to.

"Broken down" compost indicates a common and serious need for repotting. If you can poke your fingers into the potting mix easily or with little resistance the compost has broken down and is no longer suitable. This material can be saved as a potting medium for acid-loving plants. I use it for top dressing camellias or for planting begonias.

The appearance of your plant will tell you when it is unhappy. If the orchid consists mainly of dry withered bulbs, with one or two green ones on the outer fringes, it is in a sad condition that shouts for help. A repotting may save its life and give it a new start.

A third but less imperative need for repotting is indicated by a plant that has reached the rim of its container. If the cymbidium is in good condition, it need not be divided, but can be moved into a larger pot. A two-inch increase is sufficient.

A TOWER OF STRENGTH FOR SAVERS



HOME
FEDERAL SAVINGS
AND LOAN ASSOCIATION OF SAN DIEGO

DOWNTOWN, BROADWAY AT 7TH

SAN DIEGO'S LARGEST NURSERY FACILITY

... with complete, personalized attention to your every garden need. 7 acres devoted to quality, value and satisfaction.

Presidio Nursery

LINDA VISTA RD. at MORENA BLVD.
PHONE 297-4216

THE BAMBOO TREE Florists

5029 Newport Ave. 222-0589

Flowers • Gifts • Oriental Imports

Accessories for
Ikebana and Bonsai

You
are invited to join
The
San Diego
Floral Association

Classification of Memberships:

Individual	\$ 3.50
Family	\$ 5.50
Sustaining	\$10.00
Contributing	\$25.00

- Monthly meetings featuring outstanding speakers
- A 500-volume library for your use
- Membership includes subscription to CALIFORNIA GARDEN bi-monthly magazine.

San Diego Floral Association
Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Calif.

Please enroll me as a
member. Enclosed is.....

Have you found any plants that need repotting? Well, here we go—

Remove all the old compost from the roots. A hard spray of water on the plant works well and does the least damage. Before dividing, observe how the plant is growing, so you can plan well-balanced divisions. Bulbs with from three to seven mature leaves are considered a flowering size division. Remove all unnecessary leafless back bulbs. Several pieces of the same plant may be potted individually or combined in one large container. Sterilize all cuts with a good fungicide and seal with tree seal.

There are any number of potting mixes that can be used. A simple one combines equal parts of fir bark (medium to coarse grade) and redwood bark (a combination of fiber and chunks.) For higher water retention, add coarse sand. The advantage of this mix is that it is easy to make up in small amounts and does not seem to break down fast. Because there is no food value in this mixture, a feeding program will have to be carried out.

Select a pot that will give the cymbidium growing room. Work fresh compost well into the center of the root mass. Pack the mix in as tightly as possible. The base of the plant should be about an inch below the rim of the pot. Water well to settle the compost and set aside in a moist, shaded place. Do not water the plant again until it sets up active root action. From April first through August, feed regularly with a balanced high-nitrogen fertilizer. Give much water and light.

Betty Newkirk
SD County Orchid Society

● FUCHSIAS

NORMALLY this is the dormant season, when fuchsias require the least care. That is, if they have been cut back in the fall, for a forced rest before starting up again in the spring. However, in our warm climate, it is not unusual to see fuchsias blooming in winter. Many growers prefer to prune fuchsias in summer when it is hot, in order to enjoy winter flowers later. Other gardeners find that they can carry young blooming plants on through a warm dry autumn and mild winter, such as ours was until this January, by continuing a full feeding and watering schedule. These lush

green plants would be likely to suffer from frost, but dormant types in the ground that have dried out for lack of rain during this long drought, will be hard hit too, especially if they are in low, cold or exposed areas.

It is very discouraging, especially to the amateur gardener from the east, to be told there is nothing he can do about his frosted plants. But, except in the coldest areas, he can live in hopes that, with proper care, his most vigorous plants will recover. No real pruning is recommended until all frost damage is past. If there is only leaf damage the unsightly tips may be removed and dry plants may be watered a bit. If badly frosted the fuchsia's ability to use water is restricted. The soil surface should be allowed to dry thoroughly between waterings if there is danger of recurrent frosts. Many growers believe all frosted parts are best left alone, as added protection for the new growth, until spring pruning. Now it is a game of watchful and patient waiting to see what Nature may repair.

Most authorities advise pruning fuchsias in February in Southern California, after frost danger is over, but if possible, before warm days might cause bleeding. However, the number of advocates claiming better results from fall pruning, when the sap is going down, is increasing. They withhold water and food gradually, to discourage easily frozen winter growth and to induce a necessary dormancy in fuchsias that have bloomed long and heavily.

Fuchsias pruned in autumn may need more trimming and shaping now. As they grow, fuchsia plants must be cut, pinched and guided into the correct forms for their types. If used as bush, tree or espalier for good effect in the garden background, perhaps with big ferns, they may not require the heavy pruning needed by the basket types. Most fuchsias bloom only on new growth which is stimulated by proper pruning. It is safe to cut back even to the last two or three nodes of new growth. For handsome later effects, trim hanging baskets to the edges of their containers.

Few plant cuttings root as easily as those from fuchsias. They will start fairly well in water alone. For best propagation, choose the finest new growth from the most vigorous plants. Make the cut about three inches down from the tip. Dip in a root hormone, if preferred, and press firmly down into the sharp, moist sand of the starting flat. Place flats in a warm,

partly shaded nook that is protected from cold winds. Some wet peat moss may be included in the starting sand, a suggestion for an amateur who may forget when to transplant.

Given warm weather, you may have well-rooted plants inside of a month. Transplant into two or three-inch pots, using a mixture of equal parts of leaf mold, sandy loam and well-rotted manure. While your plants are growing, browse in the nurseries for some of the charming new varieties the best hybridizers are offering all the time, and make a careful selection of the types and colors that will enhance your garden plan.

Morrison W. Doty
SD Fuchsia Society

● BEGONIAS

Most gardeners prefer to raise the large-flowering begonias from tubers that are formed the first year from seedlings. Nurseries are well stocked with many varieties and colors so you should select your favorites soon. Look for plump tubers with pink "buds" showing in the concave top. Snuggle them down spaced well apart in flats of dampened fir bark or peat moss. Place in a sheltered location that is fairly dark. As the roots grow and the plants sprout, bring the box into more light so the shoots won't get tall and spindly.

When there is a good ball of roots and the sprouts are about 3 inches high, set out in shallow containers 7 to 8" wide in an enriched, loose soil mix. Be sure the drainage is excellent—a moist condition will rot the tubers. The leaves of these begonias point towards the front. When potting, place a good stake at the back so you will not injure the roots. It will be handy to tie to, as the begonia grows. Do not allow more than two or three stalks to each tuber if you want large flowers. If extra shoots are taken off with a little heel of the tuber they may be rooted in a cutting box and brought into bloom later. Be sure to dust the cut parts with charcoal or sulphur. The smaller flowered tuberous begonias are meant to be low and bushy.

It is a little too late to sow seeds of tuberous begonias but that of other types may go in now. Begonia seeds are very minute and are easily lost by

a chance movement of air — don't sneeze in their direction! Fill a seed pan with a sifted sowing medium that drains well. Drench with rain water or melted frost from ice box, and, when soil is just moist, scatter the seed *very* thinly on the surface. Do not cover the seeds. Some growers place a glass over the pot to conserve moisture, with a toothpick on the rim to give a bit of ventilation. Place in a light warm spot away from drafts and direct sunlight. The seed pan may be placed in a glass-covered casserole.

When the seedlings have produced two true leaves they may be pricked out individually or in small clusters and spaced at good intervals in a flat of lightly enriched soil. Moisture is withheld the first 24 hours and then luke-warm water containing vitamin B1 is applied in small amounts. (This may be obtained under the name of Superthrive.) One-half teaspoon to a quart of water is a safe strength. If there are not too many plants an eyedropper is handy to apply the water without washing out the seedlings. Caution—do not over or under water new transplants.

Raising begonias from seed is a tedious but fascinating hobby. Many unusual varieties may be obtained in this way so you have something new to show for your time and effort.

Many begonias withstood the frost, at least near the coast. That everflowering Sandersoni seemed to be the hardiest. Did you know that all hairy begonias take more frost than the smooth-leaf types, which are really tender? Begonias are best pruned when it is warm enough to start the new growth. Then you can save the younger branches and relieve the bushy types of their old canes—cut them back clean with the ground. Usually this can wait until April, unless you are a very tidy gardener.

Dorothy S. Behrends
Begonia Society

COMPLIMENTS OF
EUGENE COOPER STUDIO

*Exclusive Photographer of Children
Since 1934*

RAINFORD Flower Shop



Flowers for all Occasions
2140 Fourth Ave. 233-7101

HAND-COLORED BEGONIA NOTE PAPER

6 different original designs
12 for \$1.50, with envelopes
(Add 6 cents sales tax in California)

Dorothy S. Behrends
442 Orpheus Ave. Encinitas, Calif.

ROSECROFT Gardens

NOW is the time for:

- Our Famous Begonia Tubers
First-year bulbs grown from seed,
by Rosecroft.

Ready in April

- Beautiful New Fuchsias
Please — no phone calls

510 Silvergate Ave. San Diego 6
(Take Rosecroft Lane from Catalina Blvd. on
the way to Cabrillo monument)

Tell your neighbors about CALIFORNIA GARDEN — now available at most newsstands in San Diego.

NOW . . .

Insect-Proof Your Lawn, Trees & Shrubs

Selected pesticides and high pressure spraying
plus expert service gives you positive protection.

• FREE ESTIMATES • MONTHLY SERVICE • INFORMATION GIVEN BY TELEPHONE

TRULY NOLEN

CERTIFIED PEST CONTROL, INC.

298-9973



2348 EL CAJON BLVD.



offers

- Framing and silk mounting of Oriental pictures and scrolls
- Custom silk shades and lamp mountings
- Restoration of Oriental antiques

7848 GIRARD AVE.,
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA
459-5329

**DON'T BE A
LITTERBUG!**

**Walter Andersen
Nursery**

**LARGEST SELECTION
LANDSCAPE MATERIALS**

Nursery Stock and Garden Supplies
for Beautiful Gardens

We Specialize in Indoor Plants

3860 Rosecrans San Diego 10

Phone 296-6251

**7580
Hillside Drive**

Overlooking La Jolla Shores, Hillside Nursery is just up the hill from Torrey Pines Road, or down the hill from Mt. Soledad. Whichever approach you take, you'll find a wonderland of plants—rare begonias, philodendrons, tropicals, fine house plants—a wide variety of nursery stock, always at a peak of perfection.

Corey Hogewoning, Prop.

• DAHLIAS

FOR the dahlia hobbyist this is the beginning of the new year. The beds have been prepared, each plant located on a diagram of the garden, and everything is in readiness for the actual planting.

Conditions in Southern California are so ideal for dahlias that they may be planted at almost any time. Roughly, it is time to plant when the ground has started to warm. This can be determined on a clear day by turning two or three spades of dirt and feeling the soil. If there is a pleasant warmth, the soil is ready. Soil that is not ready or that which is too wet will feel clammy and damp. This is true not only of dahlias. Planting of most other flowers and of vegetables is best delayed until the ground starts to warm, regardless of how bright and sunny some days may be.

Gardeners wishing to have dahlias in bloom for the County Fair should have them planted by mid-March to April 1. To be ready for exhibiting at the County Dahlia Show, the first weekend of August, they should be planted by mid-April to the first of May. To brighten the yard during the summer and into the late fall, dahlias may be planted in the coastal area as late as June or early July.

After the ground starts to warm up, it is fairly easy to gauge the time between the planting of tubers and blooming: the smaller varieties, including pompoms, require about 60 to 70 days; the medium sizes from 75 to 90 days, and the largest, from 90 to 120 days.

Gardeners who take cuttings, or who obtain rooted plants, may cut 30 to 40 days from this schedule, for they would start later when growing conditions would be more favorable.

The dahlia hobbyist knows that the tubers must be awakened to be ready

for planting. He will have taken the roots out of storage, eliminated the ones that did not make it, and placed the good ones in flats of damp material where they could start to warm up. Eventually each good root will show an eye or develop one or more sprouts to show that it is ready. If not, it should not be planted.

On an average, a good root will have sent its sprout up, and developed into a plant of two or three sets of leaves, about a month after planting. Then the plant should be topped (pinched) so that it will bush out. And, about two months after topping, the medium sizes will have their first blooms. A shorter time for the small ones, and a little longer for the large ones, will be required.

The beginning dahlia grower should know that he must plant large varieties to have large flowers, and that he always will have smaller flowers from the smaller varieties.

Tubers obtained from dime-store counters and nursery bins usually are not labeled and obtaining these in desired colors or types is a gamble. Chances are, however, if such roots grow at all their flowers will be four to six or seven inches across. Pompom roots thus obtained likely will produce flowers of two to three inches.

The gardener who knows what he wants for size, type and color would be wise to buy named varieties from the better nurseries, from dahlia specialists, or from experienced dahlia growers. He will be rewarded by having continuing color and a bountiful crop of flowers.

He can experience one of the greatest gardening thrills by growing tiny poms under two inches, or by producing the big ones 12 to 15 inches across and 9 to 12 inches deep. He can have a full summer of gardening pleasure with one dahlia plant, a half dozen, or half a hundred.

Larry Sisk
SD County Dahlia Society

Garnet Nursery

1530 Garnet — Pacific Beach — 488-3281

Open Daily

Free Delivery — 30 Day Accounts on Approved Credit



Complete Selection of

CACTI, SUCCULENTS & EPIPHYLLUMS

LESSAR CACTUS NURSERY

396 N. Highway 101, Encinitas - Phone 753-5192 - 1 Mile North of Encinitas Traffic Light

Ground Covers — on the level

By Aniela Esswein

Level with them and with yourself, so let's get down to earth and a closer acquaintance. Do you have bare spots?, loose pebbles?, weeds?, litter? This is all on the level . . . level ground that is, around stepping stones, decking, walks, parkways and foundation shrubs. There are many groundcovers which are desirable as "fillers" that will eliminate the above problems for you. Groundcovers for small areas are often fascinating plants. They add to a garden what well-chosen accessories add to a room and should be selected with the same care.

Stepping stones, for instance, take on a special air when surrounded by Corsican mint. This mint is for the real green-thumb only and probably wants a slightly acid soil . . . at least it does not like a berth between cement flagging. It is so flat and so green and, when stepped on, has such a wonderful mint fragrance that if you do like to work with plants it is very rewarding. It takes part shade, the right amount of watering, and patience.

For something less worrisome try Irish Moss (*Arenaria verna caespitosa*). *Arenaria* requires regular watering and cutworm control. It will stand full sun or part shade. Using it gives the effect of laying out a piece of deep-green velvet. Scotch Moss (*Sagina subulata*) is a perfect complement to Irish Moss. It is a bright chartreuse and has the same low, tight but more sprightly texture. Both are very nice for walk areas and around small ponds or stepping stones.

Thymus serpyllum albus (a prostrate thyme with white flowers) or *Thymus s. lanuginosus* (woolly thyme) would also do well to edge stepping stones, to tuck in around rocks, steps, or along a walk. Both take full sun and a good soaking when too dry. In winter they may get a bit "tacky" but they will revive in spring.

For an unusual and very attractive effect along a walk, a small area that needs covering, around rocks or shrubs, *Erodium cbeilanthifolium* is a good choice. *Erodium chamaedryoides* would be the species to use between stepping stones. These do best in part shade but will withstand full sun and

stay quite low, (2 or 3"—or the first one, 5 to 6"). Their interesting small, notched, round leaves add a soft grey-green touch to the surroundings. They belong to the geranium family.

For a large sunny area try *Polygonum capitatum*, a fast-spreading, flat-growing, rosy-bronze plant. It is quite hardy and a dense, vigorous cover, but a heavy frost will cut it back . . . reseeds rather freely. It bears little pinky-white flower heads on short stems. It is particularly attractive surrounding other bronze-toned plants. Before the frost hit, there was a beautiful planting of polygonum on La Jolla Boulevard in Pacific Beach, running along a wall and then cascading over the top to the sidewalk below.

Ornamental strawberry is another good groundcover around shrubs, as a substitute for a small lawn or for parkways. *Ajuga* is an attractive cover in the same situations, but under certain climatic conditions (humidity) or wrong watering, it is subject to disease.

Achillea tomentosa, or woolly yarrow, is another sun-loving, evergreen perennial which is a good tall filler along walks, around rocks, or when used in small areas as a groundcover. If it becomes rangy, cut it back. The yellow flowers should be trimmed off after blooming.

Zoysia tenuifolia, or Korean-grass produces a rich-green, lumpy, bumpy, groundcover. It is being used more and more in place of lawns. If you like, you can cut the mounds off and

they will fill in flat, but the lumps or curling waves are part of its attractiveness. Korean-grass takes regular watering, full sun and feeding once or twice a year. It is extremely slow spreading, taking about a year to fill in completely, and needs feeding in late fall into winter to keep it green. It is not suited for much traffic although occasional walking-on is tolerated. Set it out only in the spring, preferably late.

For a border, filler and cover, *Campanula porscharskayana* (Servian bell-flower) would be very charming. It is a soft green, spreading plant with a delicate lavender flower, blooming in spring and early summer. The large heads tend to lie down close to the foliage mass.

Do you front on the beach? Try *Muehlenbeckia complexa*, commonly called mattress or wire-vine. It is a tiny-leaved, wiry-stemmed, vigorous evergreen groundcover. It may not take hold right off but once it gets going, will do fine. Also it is useful in any garden, not just beach gardens. Lippia-grass also does well under the same conditions. It is coarser but effective in place of grass. When in flower, it attracts bees. Mowing will eliminate the flowers and some of the bees.

Another unusual and special little cover is *Cotula squalida*. It grows flat. The miniature leaves resemble ferns. The plant is truly fascinating because it does look like a tiny, tiny fern, covering the ground, rooting as it runs along. Water it, feed it and let it

Take a beautiful ride along the ocean to



De Haan's

SHORELINE NURSERIES

Licensed Landscape Contractors

- Rare Tropicals
- Color in all seasons
- Indoor and potted plants
- LARGEST VARIETY of plant material on the West Coast

We give SGH green stamps

'NATURE'S SHOWPLACE'

1680 Highway 101

LEUCADIA

753-2933

spread . . . but remember, part shade and don't overdo this thinking in terms of a fern. We have it on the east side where it gets morning sun.

Let your imagination go, these groundcovers also "mix" very well. For example, I know of an area about 10'x5' on the west side of a house where chamomile, another yarrow-like cover, is used and grows under the same conditions as the yarrow mentioned above. It serves as a border and the rest of the area is spotted with armeria (a clumping plant with a bright pink fluff of a flower on a 4" stem), also dwarf agapanthus, creeping thyme and woolly thyme. Another example, bordering a lawn bronze ajuga is used against bronze flax, with pine trees coming up through the ajuga. Remember, do not combine the sun-loving plants with the shade plants.

Proper watering is the secret to a handsome landscape. A deep soaking does more good than a daily sprinkling. Talk to your nurseryman about correct watering in our San Diego area. Proper irrigation is the key to healthy plants.


I have tried to mention groundcovers which should be in more general use, not only for the effect they produce, but because they have real merit. However, there are many other plants suitable for the same situations, such as iceplants, prostrate carissas, gazanias and many coniferous evergreens.

Most of the groundcovers I have described are good for three or four years, some for a longer duration and some indefinitely, if given professional type care. Nearly all of the plants named here can be bought in flats at a reasonable price. Do not overlook many other types grown in gallon cans which also make excellent cover.

Groundcovers keep your garden more attractive, your walks cleaner, add interest to lawns and complement shrubs and trees. Ask your nurseryman for these more unusual plants.

Cafe del Rey Moro

YOUR HOST: JERRY DICUS
House of Hospitality, Balboa Park
234-2161
OPEN DAILY - 12 NOON - 8 P.M.
One of America's Better Restaurants

John Cole's 
Book & craft shop
7571 Ivanhoe Avenue
La Jolla California
454-4766

BOOK TOURS

Conducted by Alice W. Heyneman

When an English gardener writes a book on his specialty, he is thorough, graphic, and generous with advice. Also he projects his enthusiasm, the thrill of creation, and expresses it in a lyric language that makes the reading a literary experience. Many of the directions for planting, timing, and varieties listed in the books below are not adaptable to Southern California, but there is much to be learned and enjoyed from any of them. All of the following are by English authors.

Orchids by J. Blowers. St. Martin's Press, N.Y. 1962. 132 pages. \$4.98.

The orchid admirer who would like to grow them, but does not know where to start, will find an excellent introduction in this book. Selections of easily grown varieties, along with descriptions of types, illustrated with drawings and color plates, will entice and encourage the beginner. Instructions on potting, culture, temperatures for each type, and greenhouse arrangements are carefully explained. One catches the enthusiasm of the author as the book progresses, and there is danger of being swirled into a permanent state of "orchiditis", like that of the author.

Primroses by Roy Genders. St. Martin's Press, N.Y. 1962. 128 pages. \$3.98.

This book gives an extensive survey of all available information on primroses. Mr. Genders begins with the first wild ones that peep through the snow in England, and have inspired the English poets and people to sing of their beauty until you get the impression that it is a national custom. He lists hundreds of varieties, the doubles, the multi-colored, and their many uses in the garden and parks, and by the florists. They have been planted in English gardens as far back as there are any records. Although we know the primrose and see it in gardens, there are many suggestions in this book to enlarge our appreciation of that flower.

Carnations For Everyman by Montague C. Allwood. St. Martin's Press, N.Y., 1962. 130 pages. \$3.98.

Although Mr. Allwood is a learned horticulturist and commercial grower of carnations, he writes with such

charm, authority and enthusiasm that you would think he had just discovered these plants. He holds back no secrets in any phase of growing his specialty. A very useful calendar at the end of the book gives definite directions on what to do in each month.

SUNSET BOOKS

The Lane Book Company, Menlo Park, California, which publishes *Sunset Magazine*, is constantly revising its considerable list of books on homes and gardens. Three new ones at \$1.95 each will be appreciated by western home and garden enthusiasts.

Camellias. This one has listed seven hundred varieties which grow in the West. They are classified as to type and variety with definite instructions on planting, culture and propagation. The new trends for achieving effects with camellias in landscape design, espaliers, bonsais, and tree types are all attractively illustrated.

Bulbs. Besides giving lists, culture and care of the true bulbs, there are extensive sections on the other bulbs such as corms, rhizomes, tubers, tuberous rhizomes and thickened roots which we know as jonquils, iris, dahlias and begonias, as well as dozens of lesser known varieties in all groups, that are seldom seen. Those searching for the different and unusual to add variety to a garden will find this book worth while. A seasonal calendar for planting and cultivating is furnished, with a special emphasis on use in landscaping. Many new ideas for bulbs in pots.

Furniture You Can Build. If you have a yen to make a piece of furniture for your home, patio, or garden, this book will help. It takes for granted that you have no experience, and tells in detail the tools you need, how to buy materials, how to measure, and how to follow a blue print, as well as a picture of what you are building. Although you begin by copying, you are encouraged to create and build something for your home that is distinctive, so you can shun the dullness of mass-produced articles on the market.

Rosalie F. Garcia

NATURE'S NOOK

... Sidelights
on the world of plants

Camellias

By Donald Betts

CAMELLIAS are living symbols of man's spirit of adventure and his endless search for beauty, now put to practical application in its expression in his surroundings . . . gardens.

Camellias are members of the Ternstroemiaceae, the Tea Family, and are native to eastern Asia from Indo-China to Korea and to the islands off the coast of China. There are many species in the genus, but only about nine of them are now known to be represented in camellia collections in our country. Of these, two species are particularly well known as ornamental plants of great beauty: *Camellia japonica* and *C. sasanqua*. Now the splendid introductions of *C. reticulata* are receiving plaudits. Of outstanding economic value are *C. oleosa*, whose seeds have oil-bearing properties, and *C. (Thea) sinensis*, the famous tea plant of the Orient.

Although there are some tropical species of Camellia, all of those known to us and grown by us trace back to the warm temperate zones of Asia, to such places as Yunnan and Kwangtung provinces of China, the islands of Formosa and Japan. In those regions one finds weather cool, but not too cool, in winter, high temperatures and humidity in summer, plenty of rainfall, and acid soils. These conditions are duplicated in many parts of the United States, from Virginia southward to Florida, westward through the Gulf States to Texas, and on the Pacific coast from California to Canada. Consequently, these beautiful plants have found a congenial home among us. In fact, at the present time, camellias are used more extensively in ornamental plantings in our country than in any other place in the world. Their shining leaves seem as cooling in summer as their blooms are heart-warming in winter, small wonder they are popular.

The history of camellias goes back thousands of years in China to the time when they were of economic importances as sources of tea and oil. As Oriental civilization advanced beyond basic necessities the plants began to

be appreciated for their beauty. Later the Buddhist missionaries exchanged camellias as they traveled back and forth between China and Japan. Eventually camellias progressed from the temples and private gardens to the nursery gardens of the seaport cities of the Orient. It was in these places when the Europeans adventured over strange seas to China that they first found camellias.

The great voyage of Columbus in 1492 stirred his part of the world with a new love of exploration. Within a hundred years the Portuguese, the Dutch, and the English were trading actively in Oriental waters. Before long, companies were organized to manage and monopolize this extremely lucrative business, so that trading posts were opened in far-off places and staffed with trustworthy men from the home countries. Doctors, who were also the botanists of those early days, were stationed at the posts to look after the health of the staffs. These men were often imaginative, curious-minded fellows fascinated by their strange new surroundings, by the people and the plants of the region, and had, as often as not, a true eye for beauty. Many of them traveled inland seeking and collecting interesting and beautiful specimens of plants to send or take back to Europe. Thus slowly, during the next century a great many camellias of different species found their way into the gardens, greenhouses and herbaria of the western world.

In 1707 Linnaeus, the famous Swedish botanist, gave camellias their Latin name. He bestowed the generic name *Camellia* in honor of a Jesuit missionary, George Joseph Kamel, who had traveled widely in the tropical islands of the far Pacific and had contributed much to the knowledge of the plants of the Far East, although,

oddly enough, he is thought never to have laid eyes on a camellia plant itself, because it was not native to the tropics where he lived.

During the 18th and 19th Centuries, many more specimens of camellias were introduced into Europe from Asia, and then in great numbers into America. As early as the year 1800 a number of varieties of *Camellia japonica* had found their way into the towns of our eastern seaboard. Through the years that followed the camellia spread southward and westward, moving along with man as he pushed the frontier of civilization farther and farther back across the continent.

Finally, in 1851, a Mr. James Warren of Boston moved to California and set up a mercantile business in the then booming town of Sacramento. The following year, in February, he received among other things a shipment of camellia plants from the east. They had come by ship to the Isthmus of Panama, were hauled overland to the Pacific, were loaded onto a steamer bound for San Francisco, and finally were conveyed by a river boat to Sacramento. By this means, so far as is known, the first camellias arrived in California, where they scattered far and wide until they are one of our leading ornamental plants. They are so much at home in many areas that one might suppose they had always been here.

But, as we have seen, such is by no means the case. In fact, when we look at these handsome plants, or hold a perfect bloom in our hands, we might do well to remember the wonderful, remarkable history that lies behind it. We might think for a few moments of the men and women who have carried these plants down through the ages. We might honor their spirit of adventure and their search for beauty.

Tuberous begonia bulbs ready for planting now. Only the finest . . . direct from Vetterle's in Capitola, available at . . .

Bennett's
GARDEN CENTER

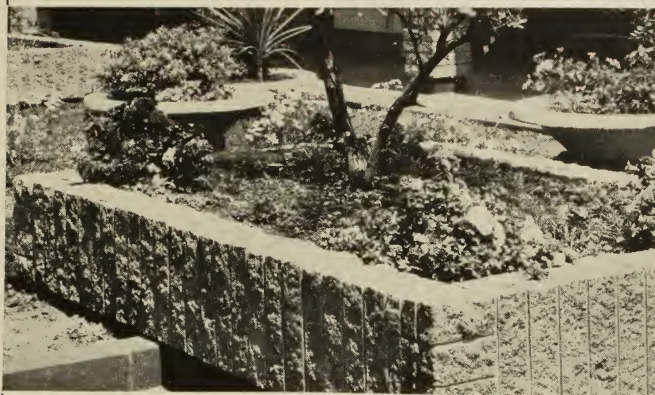
7555 EADS AVENUE

LA JOLLA

454-4241



HAZARD BRIC . . BLOC . . DECOR ROC



*Beautiful things happen
in your garden with*

HAZARD PRODUCTS
in MISSION VALLEY in EL CAJON
Friars Rd. & Hiway 395 288 Fletcher Parkway
297-4141 444-3124

PATRONIZE our ADVERTISERS— Let's Grow Together.

This index is convenient to carry in your purse.

Andersen, Walter Nursery	26	Garnet Avenue Nursery	26
Aragro Products	6	Grand Avenue Nursery	5
Art Enterprises by Pharis	5	Hazard Products	30
Bamboo Tree, The	24	Hillside Nursery	26
Behrends, Begonia Notepaper	25	Home Federal Savings and Loan Ass'n	23
Bennett's Garden Center	29	Hospitality Hostess	5
Broadway Florists	19	Johnson Rose Nursery	22
Cafe Del Rey Moro	28	Lessar Cactus Garden	26
California Electric Works	31	Lundy & Crawford, Inc.	4
California Garden	19	Milorganite, Butler's Mill	4
Carolyn Beauty Shop	6	Mission Hills Nursery	22
Charles Hair Stylists	22	Pacific Shores Insurance	30
Coleman, Curtis Co., Realtors	6	Presidio Nursery	24
Coles, John, Book and Craft Shop	28	Quon Mane, La Jolla	26
Country Squire Rose Food	22	Rainford Flower Shop	25
Culligan Soft Water	4	Rosecroft Gardens	25
De Haan's Shoreline Nurseries	27	San Diego Floral Ass'n	24
Eugene Cooper Studio	25	Suburban Savings and Loan	6
Exotica Nursery	19	Truly Nolen Pest Control	25



BOB SHROSBREE

EV SHROSBREE

**PACIFIC SHORES
INSURANCE AGENCY**

Protection Service Integrity

4425 Cass

488-0515

50 YEARS AGO in CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Alfred D. Robinson, February, 1913

It is inevitable that a publication like California Garden . . . should have considerable to say about the "freeze" that visited the Pacific slope three weeks ago . . . We have suffered very severely . . . The damage to ornamentals and sub-tropical fruits has been enormous, and to ignore this . . . is childish . . . We of Southern California will plant again all that we ever have planted from temperate or tropic zone and at once, because we argue from normalities and not from abnormalities. Never before, in over half a century of keeping records, has Jack Frost bitten so hard . . . With the courage that deserves success let us plant two things where only one grew before.

G. T. Keene, February, 1913

A number of our readers have threatened to quit raising flowers and go in for chickens. It may be just as well, if they are unwilling to allow the weather man to dish up a frost once in sixty years.

Miss K. O. Sessions, March, 1913

Acacia Baileyana seems more glorious than ever, for this past month it has been and still is a beautiful and bountiful tree of gold. After the freeze, to see so much beauty, color and vigor, while many a more sturdy plant is practically dead, makes one wonder how it could be so.

A.D.R. from "Pickings and Peckings of the Early Bird," March, 1913

. . . "Early Bird," said the Road-runner, "get busy on your jokes." . . . I have been wondering whether that wise old guy really meant that I should try to turn joke-maker or start a crop of chestnuts. Chestnuts would be quite at home in a garden magazine, but I am confident that young man meant up-to-date jokes with autos, flying machines and suffragettes in them, and all those things are sadly out of place among flowers . . . To make a business of reading jokes in the garden, God save us! Why not pull weeds . . . No, there is only one way to supply this joke need and that is to keep the subscription price where it is, fifty cents, and if you don't think that is a joke just be the early bird for a month or two . . .

WHEN YOU MOVE

Send your new and old address to
CALIFORNIA GARDEN
Balboa Park, San Diego 1, Calif.



Expand your outdoor
living area... increase
enjoyment of your home...
with *Calewo*-designed

GARDEN LIGHTING

Dramatic lighting effects for your front garden or secluded patio are tailored for your particular site and living pattern by *Calewo's* garden-lighting specialists. Design, installation, and maintenance are no work or worry when you call *Calewo*... Remember, to keep your home (and garden) and business **ELECTRICALLY ALIVE**, call **BEImont 2-2145**... *Calewo*!

Complete electrical service
24 hours a day
since 1917

California Electric Works

424 Eighth Avenue • San Diego 12, California

BE 2-2145

P.S. to do-it-yourself fans: *Calewo* has the garden-lighting materials and parts you need, too!

Open Sundays—8 AM to 3 PM.



From the historical collection of the Union Title Insurance Co.